

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Mike Sablan earns SCC's top honor

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Michael S. Sablan is not used to being in the spotlight; he would rather work his magic quietly behind the scenes. But last Saturday, all eyes were on him after he was named the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Business Person of the Year during the business group's installation dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

That made Sablan the first to be selected from the back office; past recipients were top executives and managers who are usually visible in the community.

"Thank you to those who nominated me. I am truly honored and humbled to receive this," he said

See MIKE on Page 4

Kilili's CW bill goes to a vote

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) bill that would increase the numerical limit of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa (CW1 program) goes to a vote on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on Monday (early Tuesday in the CNMI).

Sablan reintroduced his bill, House

Resolution 339, in the first session of the 115th Congress on Jan. 5. HR 339 aims to add 2,002 CW workers permits in fiscal year 2017. It is the same bill that passed the House in December but died when the U.S. Senate adjourned four days later without tackling it.

HR 339 was immediately referred to the House committees on Natural Resources and Judiciary. The latter

See CW BILL on Page 4

Military wants lawsuit over Marianas proposal tossed

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The U.S. military is seeking to have a federal lawsuit challenging its plans to expand operations on the Mariana Islands dismissed.

The Department of Defense claims the court does not have the authority to question the \$8 billion international agreement that will move as many as 5,000 U.S. Marines from Japan to the Marianas in

Dededo, Guam, The *Pacific Daily News* reported. The military also plans to use some islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for training.

Earthjustice filed its lawsuit in July 2016 on behalf of several groups opposed to the military training.

The lawsuit says the U.S. Navy failed to evaluate the environmental

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JON PEREZ

Triple J Saipan's vice president for finance and administration Michael S. Sablan, right, receives a congratulatory handshake from businessman Joe Ayuyu after being named as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2016 Business Person of the Year in last Saturday's ceremony at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

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A judge issues an emergency order temporarily barring the U.S. from deporting people.

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WORLD

Despair and confusion set in among citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries.

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LIFE & STYLE

The movies vying for top honors at the PGA are nearly identical to those vying for Oscars.

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Local

Joint Region Marianas: Bolivar out, Chatfield in

ASAN, Guam—Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield relieved Rear Adm. “Bette” Bolivar during a change of command ceremony on Friday, Jan. 27.

Chatfield will serve as commander, Joint Region Marianas; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas; U.S. Pacific Command, Senior Military Official Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated

States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Commander, Task Force West.

She reports to Guam after serving as U.S. Deputy Military Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee in Brussels, Belgium.

Chatfield expressed that it is the people of Guam and the warmth of their hospitality that inspired her to

return to the island.

“It was my previous experience [in] Guam, the operational importance of the infrastructure and units assigned here, and the relevant work to be done that caused me to seek this assignment,” said Chatfield. “It feels good to come home to Guam. David and I are so excited to be here, and he joins me in saying thank you.” (PR)



Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, right, assumes command of Joint Region Marianas, from Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar during a change of command ceremony at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Center in Mangilao Jan. 27.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar is piped ashore during her change of command ceremony at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Center in Mangilao Jan. 27. Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield relieved Bolivar as commander, Joint Region Marianas.

IPI: Fed court lacks jurisdiction over Ewing's claims

Imperial Pacific International has asserted that the U.S. District Court for the NMI lacks jurisdiction over the claims contained in the lawsuit filed by Danny Ewing, a former Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s casino vice president of table games.

Imperial Pacific, through counsel George Lloyd Hasselback, also argued that Ewing's claims should be barred and/or limited by his failure to mitigate damages.

In Imperial Pacific's answer and affirmative defenses to Ewing's lawsuit, Hasselback said his client denies the allegations that the company failed to enforce an adequate anti-

money laundering program.

Hasselback also denied, among other allegations, that in late February or early March 2016, Ewing reported to Imperial Pacific management, specifically to Kwong Yiu Ling, that Imperial Pacific had allowed a casino customer to deposit \$400,000 with the casino's cashier without the required anti-money laundering program identification.

Hasselback denied Ewing's allegations that defendant ignored his report and failed to take any action.

Ewing alleged that Imperial Pacific is engaging in illegal practices. The defendant denied such allegation. (Ferdie de la Torre)






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'Sale of ship will only put Yamamoto in worse position'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto has offered no legal reason to insist on the sale of M/V *Luta* since it will put him in a worse position, according to the owner/operators of the vessel.

In fact, based on the evidence in the record, Yamamoto was never entitled to a maritime lien on M/V *Luta*, according to lawyer William M. Fitzgerald, who represents defendants *Luta* Mermaid LLC, its president Abelina T. Mendiola, and members Deron T. Mendiola, and Fidel S. Mendiola III.

Fitzgerald asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to invalidate the lien and invalidate its order to sell M/V *Luta*.

Fitzgerald said that Yamamoto withdrew his motion to intervene in his lawsuit to prevent other intervenors from coming forward additional claims.

Defendants have attempted to settle with the three existing intervenors but a fourth has appeared, Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc., which claims that M/V *Luta* owes it \$165,766 in services, costs, fees, and interest.

Fitzgerald said an additional claim of \$165,766, which will

be paid before Yamamoto's claim, makes it more unlikely that he will receive anything if the vessel is sold.

The lawyer said setting aside the order for the sale of M/V *Luta* and releasing the vessel, contingent upon the agreement by the three other intervenors to settle with M/V *Luta*, gives Yamamoto a better chance to recover, than allowing the sale to go forward.

He said if M/V *Luta* is sold, the three intervenors—former captain of M/V *Luta* and six crewmembers, Long Consulting LLC, and Norton Lilly International—would all recover their entitlement before Yamamoto would receive anything.

Fitzgerald said the three intervenors have claims, which could total more than \$1 million and it is unlikely that the vessel would fetch that much at an auction.

The captain and crew members are demanding payment of \$183,648 in unpaid wages, while Long Consulting is claiming \$300,000 in unpaid services. Norton Lilly is claiming \$131,801 in unpaid services.

Last week, the fifth claimant, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, filed a complaint to collect \$20,463 in alleged unpaid services.

Yamamoto is suing Lt. Gov.

Victor Hocog and the owner/operators of M/V *Luta* for allegedly refusing to pay back the \$3.4 million that he put up for the vessel.

After Yamamoto filed the lawsuit last Oct. 25, the U.S. Marshal Service seized the ship. The National Maritime Services was then appointed as custodian of the vessel.

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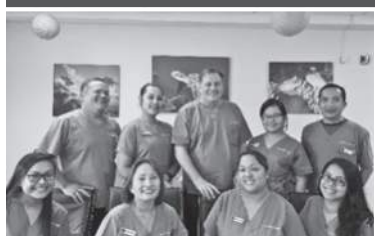


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CNMI gets more time to file notice of ATP for \$5M for CUC projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court has approved a request by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and other parties to extend the deadline for the CNMI government to file with the court

its notice of authorization to proceed for \$5 million funding for some stalled CUC projects.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter allowed the CNMI government to file its notice of authorization to proceed on or before March 1, 2017.

The CNMI must deposit \$5 million into the court's registry or file a notice with the court of the U.S. Department of the Interior's authorization to proceed for funding stipulated order 2 projects by Feb. 1, 2017.

The request for extension

of deadline was jointly filed last Wednesday by CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok, U.S. Department of Justice environmental enforcement section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, and CNMI special assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan.

The lawyers stated that the U.S., including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Engineering and Environmental Management Company have been working to obtain an ATP to devote \$5 million to stipulated order 2 projects.

However, the lawyers said, it has become apparent that despite all efforts of the parties and the EEMC, an ATP will not be issued on or before Feb. 1, 2017.

They said the delay in the ATP is because the Office of Insular Affairs is currently operating a continuing resolution

through April 28, 2017, and issues surrounding the approval and completion of the CNMI's single audit.

To allow additional time for the CNMI to obtain the requisite ATP, the parties agreed to extend the deadline to March 1, 2017.

The lawyers said the CNMI will continue to work with OIA, the parties, and the EEMC to facilitate the grant

award process and to explore the option of reimbursing the court registry with grant funds.

Stipulated order 2 projects refer to the smart pigging of the new CUC oil pipeline; waste management of power plants 1 and 2 on Saipan; engineering and design of facility drainage improvements for power plants 1 and 2; soil cleanup for power plant 1; and construction management by EEMC.



SELFIE

Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, commander, Joint Region Marianas, takes a selfie with the crowd during her change of command ceremony at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Center in Mangilao Jan. 27.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Man pleads guilty to selling 'ice' in Garapan

A man indicted in federal court for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan has pleaded.

Xi Rong Chen, also known as Loa Biao, pleaded guilty last Wednesday to distribution

of a controlled substance as part of a plea deal.

Chen, a Chinese national, admitted that he sold "ice" to an individual working as a confidential source for the Drug Enforcement Adminis-

tration on Aug. 19, 2014.

Attorney George Hasselback is counsel for Chen. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe represented the U.S. government.

Chen will be sentenced on

May 3, 2017, at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated the jury trial set for Feb. 22, 2017.

After the hearing, Chen was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

MIKE

From Page 1

in his acceptance speech. "I know the other nominees are also outstanding, highly qualified, and equally deserving of this award. I was looking at the past recipients and I could be one of the first that was selected from the back office."

Sablan, who is Triple J Saipan's vice president for finance and administration, joins an illustrious group of past recipients of the Chamber's highest honor. It recognizes an individual member in the business scene that is active both in the group's programs, community projects, and support for the local workforce.

Sablan became the third recipient from the Triple J family after Jay B. Jones (Triple J Motors, 2001) and Robert "Bob" Jones (Triple J Corp., 2010). He is the 22nd person to receive the award that began in 1996 with EFC Engineers & Architects' Efrain Camacho as the inaugural awardee.

Other previous awardees are Edward Camacho (Pacific Financial Corp., 1997); Joe C. Ayuyu (McDonald's of Saipan, 1998); Marian Aldan Pierce (DFS Saipan, 1999); Wendi Herring (Pacific Islands Club, 2000); Alex A. Sablan (Saipan Shipping Co., 2002); Jerry Tan (Tan Holdings, 2003); Mark Erwin (Continental Airlines, 2004); David M. Sablan (Century Insurance, 2005); Juan T. Guerrero (Herman's Bak-

ery/MITA Travel, 2006); K.J. Kim (Asiana Airlines, 2007); Kathryn H. Barry (KB Communications, 2008); Vicente "Ben" Babauta (DFS Saipan, 2009); Jim Arenovski (Delta Management, 2011); 2012 co-recipients Marcia Ayuyu (R.J. Corp.) and Anthony Pellegrino (Saipan Sea Ventures); Marcie Tomokane (Bank of Guam, 2013); Vicky Benavente (Pacific Islands Club, 2014); and Alex K. Youn (AC Pacific, 2015).

This year's other nominees for the prestigious business award are Arenovski (Island Training Solutions), Andrew Ashburn (N15 Architects), John Compton and Hans Mickelson of IT&E, Donna Krum of Friends First Marketing and Tyrell Pauling of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Number-cruncher

As a finance and auditing person, much of Sablan's work involves being in front of a computer doing the analysis and reports that help managers and top executives make better decisions on how to grow the business.

"I'm used to working behind my computer somewhere inside a cubicle at the back office," said Sablan. "Counting the money, crunching the numbers, and doing the reports and analysis. Providing the support material that the frontline people, executives, and managers need for the business and present to the public."

He considers the award a

special recognition to workers who are not usually seen in public. "It is not just us finance people who work behind the scenes. I know a lot of [human resources] professionals, lawyers, architects, engineers, accountants, analysts, and construction management people who also work behind the scenes."

Sablan said those who know him personally are aware that he's very low-key. "I'm a very low-profile kind of guy. I like my privacy and spending time with my family. But my career over the years also involved a lot of presentations. I love my work and I also accept this award for those of us who want to work at the back office."

"If you agree, much of the work that we do are not that visible but is crucial in running a business successfully. We provide our frontline managers all the reports and analysis they need on how we could take care of our customers better and how we treat our employees well."

Accounting career

Sablan's career spanned almost three decades both in public service and the private sector. He recalled how, more than 20 years ago, Joe Camacho, then JP Finance Saipan's comptroller, made a long distance call to ask him if he wanted to come back and work in Saipan. He was just starting his accounting career in a Los Angeles firm after finishing his studies in

the mainland.

"I received a long-distance call unexpectedly from a gentleman who introduced himself as Joe Camacho. I did not know Joe and, after a few minutes of introduction, asked me if I wanted to go back to Saipan. Not a day goes by that I think I made the right decision and appreciated that call. You don't have to be originally from Saipan to love this community. We have a wonderful community where people live and work with respect and dedication."

Sablan also previously worked at Joeten Enterprises (vice president and chief financial officer) and DFS Saipan (assistant comptroller). He served as director in various corporate boards in the region like Marianas Cable Vision, PHI Pharmacy, Saipan Stevedore, IHAC Inc., Island Home Insurance, and Staywell Insurance.

He was in public service for almost 10 years starting as special advisor for finance and budget to former governor Pedro P. Tenorio and as the CNMI's public auditor from 2001 to 2008 while also serving as chairman of the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors in 2001 and 2007.

Sablan obtained his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California Los Angeles and is among the first in the CNMI to become a certified public accountant in the state of California and in Guam.

CW BILL

From Page 1

was for a period to be determined by House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) for consideration that falls in the jurisdiction of the concerned committee.

Reps. Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) chair the Natural Resources and Judiciary committees.

Sablan said he is thankful to the leadership of the GOP-dominated House and his Democratic Party counterparts who gave his bill a new lease in life.

"I am grateful to the Republican and Democratic leadership in the House who are giving my effort a second chance. Hopefully, with more time [H.R. 339] can pass the Senate and get to the President for signature," said Sablan.

The cap increase provides a temporary solution to the CNMI's ongoing labor shortage, especially with the numerical limit already reached a few weeks after the beginning of fiscal year 2017.

"The increase is as important as ever. More and more businesses will find themselves unable to renew their CW permits over the coming months. The cap of 12,998

permits for fiscal 2017 was reached in mid-October,"

Sablan said. "Employers of foreign workers have been blocked from applying for new permits or submitting renewals for any existing permits expiring after mid-April."

HR 339, if it becomes a law, would increase the number of CW permits from 12,998 to 15,000 just for fiscal year 2017.

The 15,000 total was the same level more than three years ago.

HR 339 is known as the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act.

HR 339 also aims to increase the education fee for each approved CW permit of a foreign worker from \$150 to \$200, with the funds to be used to train U.S. qualified workers that are either studying at the Northern Marianas College or at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, as the CNMI's special representative to the 902 talks, and the other members of the Commonwealth's panel had suggested in the 902 report that the CW cap be increased to 18,000 and the program be extended for another 10 years as it is scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2019.

MILITARY

From Page 1

impacts of training on Tinian and Pagan islands and did not consider alternate locations outside the Mariana Islands "where the Marines could accomplish their mission with fewer adverse impacts."

Earthjustice claims communities on Tinian would be subjected to high-decibel noise and have restricted access to fishing grounds, cultural sites and recreational beaches as a result of the military training. Pagan would be the target of ship-to-shore naval bombardment, which would destroy native forests and coral reefs, according to the lawsuit.

The other groups involved in the lawsuit include the Tinian Women's Association, PaganWatch, the Center for Biological Diversity and Guardians of Gani, a nonprofit established to protect "Gani," which refers to the Mariana Islands north of Saipan.

The military issued a re-

sponse to the complaint Friday, saying the court should dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

"The decision to relocate the Marines from Okinawa to Guam is a 'political decision already made' by the United States Secretaries of State and Defense through a 2006 commitment to the Government of Japan, and a binding international agreement signed by the United States Secretary of State and Japan's Foreign Minister in 2009," the military's response states. "Plaintiffs point to no case in which a court has exercised jurisdiction to direct an Executive Branch agency to reconsider a course of executive action that is the subject of a binding international agreement."

The military added that it is premature to challenge the proposed training activity in the Northern Mariana Islands because related environmental impact studies are ongoing and the training "may never be approved at all."

Apatang still waiting on design for animal shelter

The Saipan Mayor's Office is still waiting for the design of its new animal shelter to be approved. This time, the shelter will be in As Perdido.

The old shelter in Lower Base became unsafe and was eventually condemned by the Department of Public Works after Typhoon Soudelor's harrowing winds blew its roof away.

"The animal shelter, they're finalizing the design and once it's final we have to send the design to [the Federal Emergency Management Agency]. Once FEMA approves that, it will be put out for bid," said Apatang last Wednesday.

The mayor said that DPW is finishing up the shelter's electrical design.

The shelter itself will be built at a cost of nearly \$400,000.

"It's going to be a big one. It's going to accommodate a lot of dogs. We're looking forward to that," said Apatang.

In an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, the mayor said they have no choice but to relocate to As Perdido as their old Lower Base site has been designated a flood zone.

"Because it's a flood zone area FEMA requires us to rebuild it 6 feet higher but we just don't have the money for that. So we're asking FEMA to reconsider the money that they gave us and, instead of repairing it, we would reconstruct a new building," he said.

Apatang thanked the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for allowing them to use their facility in As Perdido to temporarily house their animal control program.

"We're moving to As Perdido. We're sharing half and half with [Division of] Quarantine. The secretary of DLNR was good enough to let us share part of it. It's very limited but at least we're still picking up stray animals that roam around the villages and those that are very vicious," he said.

Apatang said once the design is finally done and the bidding process doesn't encounter any problems, the mayor's office would hopefully inaugurate the new animal shelter before the end of the year. He admits the opening couldn't come any sooner.

"We have a lot of complains at the Garapan business area of stray dogs running around. Business owners in turn let their dogs out to chase the stray dogs away," he said.

Apatang said his office will also again conduct a spay and neuter campaign in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States.

He said he fully supports Rep. Edwin Propst's (Ind-Saipan) Animal Protection Act of 2015 that makes it illegal to

abuse animals in the CNMI. Currently, the Commonwealth is the only U.S. jurisdiction with no animal protection laws.

"I strongly support anything that prevents inhumane treatment of animals, especially dogs," he said

adding that Propst's bill was written with input from the Humane Society.

"If they don't want their

dogs, call us and we'll pick them up. Don't abuse them. We'll take care of them," he added. *(Mark Rabago)*



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- Promotes the image of the Authority as the primary advocate of business.
- Recommends any changes necessary to QC Rules and Regulations to improve the Program's effectiveness and efficiency.
- Undertakes special projects as assigned by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors and facilitates and coordinates special projects objectives.
- Attends and reports to the Board of Directors the activities of the department.
- Performs related work as assigned.

EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Bachelor's Degree in Economics or any business related field from a U.S. accredited university or college and a minimum of five (5) years management level experience in business related field. Knowledge of laws, regulations, policies and services of the Authority; knowledge of principles and practices, rules & regulations governing the QC Program; some familiarity of local laws including but not limited to Tax Law; Ability to effectively investigate, evaluate and formulate solutions; ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing; possesses strong management skills; and possesses good computer skills and proficient in MS Office applications.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 17-007

Opening Date: Friday, January 27, 2017
Closing Date: Thursday, February 09, 2017

Revised Senior Administrative Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the CUC Board of Director or his/her designee. Assist the CUC Board of Director's Secretary on Board of Director Meetings, Personnel Committee Meetings, and Operations Committee Meetings. Perform transcribing of Board Meeting minutes. Performs specialized, advanced office and administrative support activities of assigned division or specialty area; provides administrative support, coordination and project assistance to assigned management. Reviews, verifies, processes, prepares and distributes various documents, reports, contracts, change orders, timekeeping records, schedules, specifications, billing documents, and/or other departmental documentation. Provides internal and external customer service by responding to inquiries and information requests, contacting appropriate resources to gather pertinent information, and providing documents, information or specifications for required resources or services. Enters and maintains data in systems; retrieves and reviews system information; performs research as needed to gather pertinent data; reconciles errors or inconsistent data; makes applicable corrections and updates to maintain data integrity. Maintains and organizes files, databases, and records; ensures retention of information in accordance with procedures and guidelines. Assists in tracking budgets and expenditures, project timelines, schedules, and/or document processes; prepares and distributes status updates and document revisions. Maintains and prepares requisitions for inventory, supply and equipment needs; monitors and identifies resource needs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : CUC Board of Directors, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : (Salary commensurate with qualification and experience)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.
POSITION(S) : One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Associate's Degree or High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS and 3 years of office experience related to area of assignment. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Generally accepted accounting principles; Financial analysis principles and techniques; Advanced mathematical concepts; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skills in:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer service; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Ada, others inducted as new SHRM officers

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter inducted its new set of officers following a membership meeting last Friday at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

DFS Saipan's Esther Ada took her oath as president for calendar year 2017. Also sworn in were vice president Frank Ada of Triple J, treasurer Denise Montenegro of Hyatt Regency Saipan, secretary Catherine Cachero of Marianas Legal Strategy Group, LLC, director/membership chair Penny Jones of Hyatt, director/program chair Vanessa Deleon Guerrero of Pacific Island Cub, and immediate past-president Josephine Mesta, Hyatt.

Speaking after being sworn in, Ada said she wants to boost the membership of SHRM during her time in office.

"I want to bring it up to 120 members from the current 80. We will have a membership

drive. We encourage you to encourage other HR professionals to join us and we have great incentives for that referral. One of the incentives we're thinking about is the upcoming SHRM national conference in New Orleans. The person with the most referrals, the person with the most signs up, we'll pay [for his or her] the registration fee for the national conference," she said.

Ada is also keen to organize a study group for SHRM members who want to take the organization's certification exam.

The installation group of past presidents who oversaw the swearing in of the new officers included Frank Gibson of HR Support, CNMI; Malou Ernest of Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc.; Deborah Camacho of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.; Shirley Dotts of IT&E; and Frances Torres-Salas of the Office of Personnel Management, CNMI government.

Prior to the induction, attorney Glenn Jewell discussed how to properly conduct internal investigations of discrimination complaints.

EUCON International University president Dr. Christian Wei also spoke and explained the university's upcoming hospitality training program in conjunction with the Ching Kuo Institute of Management and Health from Taiwan.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The group serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at <http://nmichapter.shrm.org>. **(Mark Rabago)**

KIMBERLYN K. KING-HINDS (F0495)
LAW OFFICE OF KIMBERLYN K. KING-HINDS
P.O. Box 520064
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. No.: 670-484-1117
Email Address: kkinghinds@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner
Emily Kwon

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Estate of
Ig Sang Kwon
Decedent.
Date: February 24, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Tinian
Court House
Judge: Camacho

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF IG SANG KWON, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Emily Kwon, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of an Administrator for the Estate of Ig Sang Kwon, deceased. The attorney of record is Kimberlyn Kay King-Hinds of P.O. Box 64, Tinian, MP 96952. The petition is set for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 24, 2017 at the Tinian Court House in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of January, 2017.

/s/
Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds - F0495
Attorney for Petitioner

KIMBERLYN K. KING-HINDS (F0495)
LAW OFFICE OF KIMBERLYN K. KING-HINDS
P.O. Box 520064
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952
Tel. No.: 670-484-1117
Email Address: kkinghinds@gmail.com

Attorney for Petitioner
Leonora P. Aldan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Estate of
Herman Rangamar Aldan
Decedent.
Date: February 24, 2017
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Courtroom: Tinian
Court House
Judge: Camacho

ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF HERMAN RANGAMAR ALDAN, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Leonora P. Aldan, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of an Administrator for the Estate of Herman Rangamar Aldan, deceased. The attorney of record is Kimberlyn Kay King-Hinds of P.O. Box 64, Tinian, MP 96952. The petition is set for hearing at 9 a.m. on February 24, 2017 at the Tinian Court House in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of January, 2017.

/s/
Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds - F0495
Attorney for Petitioner

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the Estate of
ESTEBAN RASANG NOGIS,
Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION
NO.: 05-0113 D

EIGHTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer



UNITED STATES COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
Bldg. No. 1312, Capitol Hill • P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950-2565
Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030 • Email: info@cnmicdd.org
Website: www.cnmicdd.org



January 27, 2017

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities would like to inform all CDD Board Members and the General Public that the CDD 3rd Quarter General Membership Board Meeting scheduled for January 31, 2017 is hereby postponed until further notice.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Office at 664-7000/3.

/s/ Efren S. Nicholas
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

In helping Hopwood, Dela Cruz doesn't want precedence

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Not that Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) doesn't want to help Hopwood Junior High School. He does. It's just that he is hesitant about creating precedence in assisting it. He'd prefer school officials to inform the Public School System first about the situation of one of its facilities.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), in last Wednesday's Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's organizational session, informed his colleagues that Hopwood's Special Education classroom's kitchen is a safety issue and needs repair.

Dela Cruz hopes his colleagues and the community won't misinterpret him as he is willing to help solve Hopwood's problem. "I hope people won't get me wrong. I'm more than willing to assist them and appropriate funds from the Legislature's operational budget since these are also our children."

"But for example, there's another school that comes to the Legislature and asks for assistance that they too also have a safety issue. Do we again go to that school and say how much do you need when

these should be addressed at the PSS level? I don't mean to sound hard, but we would like to communicate with PSS."

He said he doesn't want the Legislature to be repetitive and help schools when PSS is tasked for that job. "We would be repeating ourselves in trying to assist everyone out there, when we know that there is an entity that would take care of this. Our job now is to call PSS' attention and ask them if they are aware of the situation and if they already have a plan in place."

Propst said that Hopwood had already informed PSS but the central office has yet to act on the situation. "Yes,

the teachers are aware of [the situation] and the principal is aware of it. It has also been brought up to PSS for a few years now. It is very sad that it hasn't been fixed, that's why we're thinking of other options like putting together a fundraiser."

"We often use our office account and make sure that it serves the public purpose. I can't think of any other purpose than to serve the SPED students. They are close to our hearts. They have needs. We acknowledge that and try to give them whatever they need," added Propst.

Dela Cruz said that SPED teacher Tracy Del Rosario and Hopwood principal Jonas Bar-

cinas had also written a letter, dated Dec. 7, where they already had obtained a quotation for \$2,350 from a construction company but he doesn't see any indication that PSS was provided a copy.

"From my understanding, PSS has been made aware of this for the last year and there has been no action yet. This issue should be addressed. But I don't see anything in the letter that a copy was given to PSS. So how is PSS going to know

what the issues are?"

Dela Cruz is surprised why PSS has not yet acted on it despite being allocated more than 25 percent of the CNMI's total budget. PSS was appropriated \$36 million in the fiscal year 2017 budget.

"Hopwood has been asking for the repairs for years now but the issue has not yet been addressed by PSS. We should communicate with PSS since this is a safety issue that they are facing, have PSS appropri-

ate funds and get it fixed. PSS is aware of it for the last year."

He also asked SNILD chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) that whoever is appointed to head the delegation's Education Committee be asked to act on the issue right away. "We want to clarify the matter with PSS. They could fix the problem and we need to have an audience with them. PSS might have a plan that we don't know yet until we sit down with them."

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2 Receive an insulated cup when you open a new Totally Free Checking account at First Hawaiian Bank, enroll in Direct Deposit and receive your first qualified Direct Deposit. Qualified Direct Deposit of \$500 or more must occur within 60 days of account opening. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Please allow 6-8 weeks after your qualified direct deposit to receive a certificate for the insulated cup. This certificate can be redeemed at any First Hawaiian Bank Branch. Limit one insulated cup per customer or account. Offer expires February 28, 2017 or when supplies are exhausted.

3 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or Quickbooks®. Optional Online Banking features may incur additional fees. You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.

4 Free eStatements or paper statements.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Workshop participants from parliamentary committee members of Samoa, the controller and auditor-general of Samoa and the PASAI advocacy team.



Commonwealth Development Authority

2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION VACANCY: Administrative Specialist II, Classified Position
LOCATION: Rota Office
ANNUAL SALARY: \$16,858.38 - \$20,484.60
CLOSING DATE: To Be Announced

NATURE OF WORK

The position is under the supervision of the Office Manager, Saipan. The individual works in conjunction with Saipan personnel and require coordination with the various departments in order to accomplish a variety of responsibilities. This position is tasked with promoting CDA's mission in Rota. The position has some degree of independence such as the management of daily activities-revising workflow to suit the agency.

GENERAL DUTIES:

- Issues loan applications and explains basic application requirements.
- Organizes and coordinates CDA related functions and events.
- Organizes and coordinates deliveries and pick-ups and routes necessary documents for Board signature.
- Prepares and submits monthly activity report to Administration, Saipan.
- Receives and receipts all payments.
- Prepares and deposits collections on a daily basis.
- Prepares daily collection report and submits to Accounting Dept, Saipan.
- Submits daily receipts on a monthly basis to Accounting Dept. Saipan.
- Performs related work as assigned.

QUALIFICATION and OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS

Any combination equivalent to Bachelor Degree plus (2) years of related work experience in office management or staff. Knowledge of modern office practices and modern office equipment; Knowledge of MS Office word processing and spreadsheet applications; Ability to express oneself effectively, orally and in writing; and have excellent organizational skills.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with an employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC/CDA Office in Rota or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management in Rota.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ONSITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (Full-time)

Summary

The onsite construction manager plans, directs and coordinates activities pertaining to the construction, renovation and maintenance of an assigned group of commercial and residential properties in accordance with company policies.

Qualifications and Experience

- You are able to plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate all phases of construction at the project sites.
- Your oral and written communication are excellent, thorough and attentive to details, able to prioritize and multitask, proactive and deadline-oriented.
- You are able to operate heavy equipment, machines, and hand held tools.
- You have the ability to read and understand work orders, safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.
- You must be able to occasionally lift and move up to 50 pounds or more.

Responsibilities

- Assists the property management team with conducting property inspections.
- Coordinates with the property management team to ensure that the property complies with the codes and regulations of agencies such as insurance carrier and fire protection.
- Meets with existing building maintenance staff to ensure building codes are met, to perform a detailed inspection of property and to secure building historical plans.
- Evaluates specifications for plan procedures, start and completion dates, and staffing requirements for each phase of the construction project. Estimates the scope of work and obtains a minimum of three bids for comparison and completion of each job.
- Directs subcontractors and staff engaged in planning and executing work procedures.
- Inspects property and units under construction on a regular basis to ensure the work conforms to specifications, schedule and initiates any repair or replacement needs and/or adjustment of working procedures. Regularly communicates with the project team regarding unit and property status.
- Coordinates with the property management team regarding activities of maintenance and housekeeping staff.
- Provides simple estimates for the costs of materials and staffing for various construction and/or renovation projects.
- Reviews all invoices/purchase orders pertaining to the construction projects and submits all approved bills to the accounting department for processing and payment.
- Prepares simple construction budgets and timelines for all relevant projects.

Scope

- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office
- Salary Range

No phone calls please. Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Samoa Legislative Committees strengthen financial oversight, external scrutiny role

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions, in partnership with the Office of the Controller and Auditor-General of Samoa, delivered a two-day workshop on the "Financial oversight and external scrutiny roles of Samoa's Legislative Committees" on January 19-20, 2017, at the Samoa Parliament Conference facility.

Twenty of the 24 members of five Parliamentary Committees of Samoa attended the workshop opened by Parliament Speaker Leaupepe Taimaiono Toleafoa Faafisi.

In his opening remarks, Faafisi stressed the importance of this workshop for members of the five Parliamentary Committees, and was delighted at the opportunity for PASAI to deliver this workshop for the Samoa Legislative Assembly.

This workshop is the sixth one that PASAI has delivered in the region with the aim to build the capacity of the members of Parliament who are also members of Parliamentary Committees. The objective was to help them better understand their role in providing financial oversight of public expenditure, as well as better understand the specific role of legislative committees within the processes of Parliament.

Fuimaono Papalii C.G. Afele, controller and auditor-general of Samoa, hosted the workshop, and was supported by the PASAI Advocacy Team, PASAI advocate Eroni Vatuloka, and Director of Ad-

vocacy, Engagement and Financing Aolele Su'a Aloese in delivering this workshop.

A committee member during the sessions commented that "there is a need for building the capacity of committee members as many are non-accountants and are not familiar with accounting and financial terminologies contained in the audit reports or in the financial statements of the audit entities. A training of this type targeted at non-accountant parliamentarians will be most helpful in performing their financial oversight and external scrutiny role."

The outcomes of the workshop include proposals for: enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the parliamentary committees; increasing efforts in the evaluation of performance of government entities; strengthening the Office of the Controller and Auditor-General; and engaging PASAI to assist in capacity building of the parliamentarians.

This program comes under Strategic Priority 2: Advocacy for governance, accountability and transparency, of PASAI's long-term strategic plan. PASAI is very grateful for the excellent support by parliament speaker and his staff, and also the controller and auditor-general of Samoa and his team in organizing this workshop. PASAI also acknowledges the valued support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *(PASAI)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com



TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a Parole Hearing is scheduled for **February 16, 2017 (Thursday), beginning at 9:00 a.m. and will continue, if need be, on February 17, 2017 (Friday), beginning at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building Center, at Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The Agenda is as follows:

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of Quorum

- Consent Items**
 - Adoption of Agenda

- Parole Hearing**

	BOP No.	Criminal Case No.
1. Cabrera, Alvaro J.	17-001	15-0030/13-0051
2. Torres, Joanna M.	17-002	14-0101
3. Remoket, Sheldon U.	17-003	15-0099/15-0019

- Miscellaneous**
 - Parole Hearing Eligibility List
 - Schedule of Next Parole Hearing

VI. Adjournment

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman
Date: 01/26/2017



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE

P.O. BOX 502641, Saipan, MP 96950-2641
Tel: Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
E-mail: govbop@pticom.com



TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lt Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a Board Meeting is scheduled for **February 17, 2017 (Friday), beginning at 9:00 a.m.**, at the Honorable P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building Center, at Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The agenda is as follows.

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of Quorum

- Consent Items**
 - Adoption of Agenda

- New Business**
 - Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes
 - October 7, 2016
 - December 6 and 7, 2016

- Old Business**
 - Review and adoption of Proposed Memorandum of Understanding
 - DPS - Interisland Parolee Supervision and Monitoring for Tinian and Rota
 - Review and adoption of Proposed New Rules and Regulations
 - To Repeal and Re-enact Title 115-10 of the NMIAC (Parole Rules & Regulations)

- Miscellaneous**
 - Schedule of Next Board Meeting

VI. Adjournment

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300 or 664-3302.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman
Date: 01/26/2017



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP17-DCCA/CCDF-084

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 27, 2017

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"INCREASING ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CARE FOR INFANTS AND TODDLER'S, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER **JANUARY 30, 2017** AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CHILD CARE DEVELOPEMNT FUND OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENCION DRIVE IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, AT **1:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 14, 2017.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **FEBRUARY 17, 2017** AND MUST BE DIRECTED TO MS. MARIBEL S.D. LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA E-MAIL CCDF.MARIBELLOSTE@GMAIL.COM OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547. RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH OTHER POTENTIAL PROPOSER(S).

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Imperial Pacific gives back to Kagman High

Members of the Corporate Social Responsibility team of Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. got together with some Kagman High School alumni last week to clean up and beautify the campus.

KHS vice principal Ben Jones noted IPI's innovative School Pride Project, which sent its CSR team to one of the largest public high school campuses.

"Thank you very much Imperial Pacific for your generous support in the beautification project of Kagman High School. I see how Imperial Pacific International has established itself as a business [that] puts the community on top of its priority list," Jones said.

IPI's School Pride Project and other community work continue to demonstrate the company's commitment to the

community, according to Jones.

At KHS, IPI's CSR initiated massive groundskeeping and aesthetic work.

"The work done by Imperial Pacific is always praised. [IPI-CSR] works diligently and swiftly, while demonstrating great customer service to your clients in the community. We hope to work in collaboration in future projects," Jones noted.

"Once again, thank you Imperial Pacific for your time and support. We truly appreciate the assistance in beautifying Kagman High School," he added.

CSR executive director Geralyn Dela Cruz said that schools and the community continue to need support. KHS, in particular, is special to her team. Several of Dela Cruz' team members are

alumni of KHS and loves to give back.

"Our partnership with our schools is one that we hold dearly. Whenever there is a need in our schools in which we can assist with, and have the resources to do so, we respond," Dela Cruz said.

A conversation with Jones led to the partnership between IPI-CSR and KHS.

Dela Cruz said that IPI-CSR is always ready to assist. "As we have mentioned before during our previ-

ous School Pride Project, our CSR team members are homegrown—they are a product of our schools."

The School Pride Project is one of Imperial Pacific's signature initiatives. Launched last year, it is part of the much-larger beautification campaign that involved the preservation and maintenance of the island's beauty with the goal of driving and sustaining tourism as well as to promote environmental awareness in the community. (PR)



IPI-CSR PHOTO

Members of the Corporate Social Responsibility team of Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. haul away debris that were deemed unsafe.



IPI-CSR PHOTO

Imperial Pacific performed massive groundskeeping and upkeep at Kagman High School.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 22 April 2017

Hyatt Regency® Saipan will host the 21st Annual Charity Golf Classic at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort West Course. With a reputation as being one of the most enjoyable events held on the island, with generous support from sponsors and over US\$80,000 in prizes, this will be an event to remember.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Tall tales: First crowd size, now immigrant voter fraud

There is no charitable way to spin President Donald Trump's reckless claim that millions of undocumented voters cost him the popular vote in the 2016 election. Either he's delusional or he's the sorest winner in American history.

Trump won the Electoral College with 304 votes; Hillary Clinton won 2,864,974 more popular votes than he did. The only evidence of election rigging has pointed to Russians, who, according to U.S. intelligence, hacked Democrats' emails to help Trump get elected.

Yet since late November, Trump has been chipping away at the integrity of the nation's electoral system by insisting he would have won both if, as he tweeted then, "you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally" in blue states such as California.

There is no evidence of any such large-scale voter fraud. Trump's own legal team said as much during post-election recounts. Trump produced zero proof when he was asked to put up or shut up by California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, among others. He has been contradicted by leading Republicans from Sen. Lindsey Graham to House Speaker Paul Ryan.

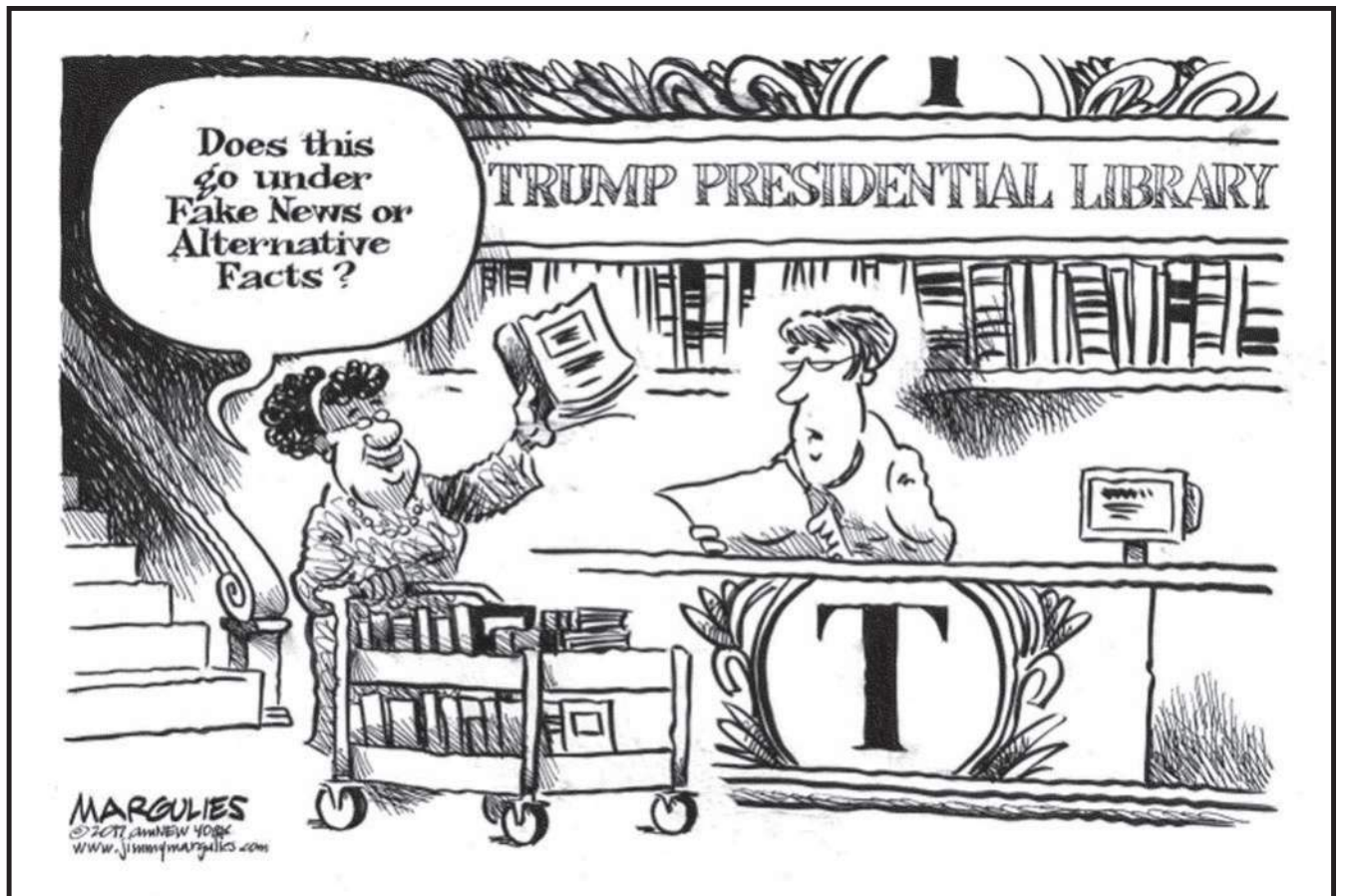
Yet he repeated the false claim again Monday, telling congressional leaders that Clinton had benefited from as many as 5 million undocumented votes. When Democrats protested, the president reportedly repeated an anecdote from a German golf pro whose friend had once been turned away from the polls while Latinos got provisional ballots. On Tuesday, Trump's increasingly compromised press secretary, Sean Spicer, cited studies that he said would back up Trump's "longstanding belief" in massive voter fraud, but did not.

On Wednesday, Trump called for "a major investigation into voter fraud, including those registered to vote in two states, those who are illegal and even, those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time)." Actually, multiple registration isn't illegal, only multiple voting. But news organizations soon produced public records showing Trump's daughter Tiffany, chief strategist Steve Bannon and Treasury secretary nominee Steven Mnuchin all fell into Trump's multiple registration dragnet.

This is ceasing to be amusing. Trump's investigation, like his border wall and draconian refugee ban, is policy by prejudice, gossip and "alternative fact."

"If President Trump has evidence of voter fraud at the scale he's alleging, he should please bring it forward," Padilla told a Sacramento Bee editorial board member Thursday. But so far the only fraud seems to be coming from the Oval Office. In less than a week, Trump has gone from small lies about his inaugural crowd to big ones like this, which could cost taxpayers, pave the way for voter suppression and harm innocents.

(c) 2017 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)



Free speech not equal to offensive tweets

As you may have noticed, we're experiencing what might politely be called a tumultuous moment in our nation's politics and that has people feeling angry, defensive, outraged, elated and, in some cases, mean-spiritedly cocky.

There was a time when turmoil of this sort might not have mattered as much in the working world, back when the primary means of spouting a political opinion was via mouth. That would often temper opinion-spouting, as face-to-face debates tend to be more civil.

But now we have social media and, as evidenced by a number of stories over the past week, political opinions or jokes can easily get out of hand and damage careers.

I'll get to those examples in a moment, but first let me say this: Everyone has the right to say, tweet or blog what they want. That's freedom of speech. But freedom of speech is often mistaken for freedom from consequences, and working people are guaranteed no such thing.

The legal parameters get murky, but if you're posting comments that are racist, sexist, xenophobic, bigoted or just plain vile and somebody connects you to your company or organization, then you are, by association, making that company or organization look bad. And you may well find yourself out of a job.

To which I say, "Good." Given the level of vitriol and hideous garbage that gets spewed online these days, I'm in favor of companies taking stronger steps to show that words come with consequences. I don't mean managers should be policing workers' social media accounts, but if an employee is reported for trolling people online or engaging in political rants that go far beyond the norms of civil discourse, that person's company should make clear what it considers acceptable.

Again, that's not restricting freedom of speech. You have a right to free speech, but you don't have a right to a job that will tolerate you posting material that could damage a company's reputation or workplace morale.

Let's review some related news that has popped up in the wake of President Donald Trump's inauguration.

A suburban Chicago school board member resigned after posting a string of wildly sexist tweets regarding the women's marches in Washington, D.C., and across the country. One tweet read: "Most of these vagina screechers didn't vote, but they mean business. Riiiiiiight. What a farce."

Other tweets referred to marching women as a "Procession of Palpable Penis Envy" and one read: "Alas, the 300 million pound Women March provides a strong argument for doing away with women's suffrage."

The author of these tweets, Dathan Paterno, is founder and clinical director of Park Ridge Psychological Services, which was subsequently eviscerated on Yelp by people who were rightly offended and shocked that a mental health professional would

By **REX HUPPKE**

Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may email him at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.



spout off in such a way.

In Texas, a principal is in trouble with her school district after writing a Facebook post calling Trump a "moron" and describing his Cabinet as being made up of "non-qualified white males."

After parents complained about the post, district officials launched an investigation to determine whether Diaka Carter, who is black, may have violated the district's social media policy.

A writer for "Saturday Night Live," Katie Rich, was suspended from the show after sending out a tweet making a joke about Trump's 10-year-old son, Barron. Rich wrote that "Barron will be this country's first homeschool shooter."

She was suspended indefinitely and issued an apology.

Nebraska state Sen. Bill Kintner stepped down this week following outrage over a tweet he shared relating to the women's marches. (He was already in hot water for a previous cybersex scandal.)

Kintner retweeted someone else's tweet that made light of sexual assault, suggesting the appearance of women marching at the protest events would keep them "safe."

He was one of several male Republican lawmakers across the country who sent inappropriate tweets and Facebook posts relating to the marches. They apparently don't understand that social media isn't private, and that there's such a thing as basic human decency.

I think one of the problems we have is that there are working people who get paid to express opinions. I'm one of them, but even with this job I have to be careful to not let my opinions or jokes or rants go too far.

And then there are working people who get paid to do other things. But because of social media and the internet in general, everyone is tempted to broadcast an opinion. And many of those people don't understand that there is a place called "too far."

When you're a working person or a representative of any organization and you reach "too far," the road splits in two.

One way is unfettered freedom of speech, and you can take that road as far you want to go.

The other way is continued employment, and that road lets you speak your mind within reason while still getting a paycheck.

You can map your own route. But if I'm giving directions, I'll point you toward that second road every time.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Ending hunger should remain a universally supported goal

This year will bring many changes to the halls of power in Washington, but America's longstanding, bipartisan commitment to global leadership in the fight against hunger and malnutrition should remain a point of pride all of us can support.

And, with more-controversial issues dominating headlines, it's an area where the new administration and Congress can come together and continue our nation's proactive work with nongovernmental organizations in addressing human suffering and building a more secure and stable world.

The belief that vulnerable communities should have a steady supply of healthy and nutritious food—often referred to as food security—has been a core U.S. foreign policy principle for decades. In July, Congress renewed America's commitment to ending global hunger with the passage of the Global Food Security Act. This legislative milestone, which passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, will help the U.S. government better leverage the collective resources of the nongovernmental organization community, private sector, universities, and American farmers in improving food security and nutrition around the globe.

Slightly more than three-quarters of a billion people around the globe suffer from undernourishment, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. And that's actually good news. For despite the figure's enormity, it represents significant improvement. Only a decade ago, the number was higher by 167 million. In the early 1990s, it was over a billion.

Much of this progress is due to the U.S. government's active collaboration with nonprofit organizations and small-

holder producers—who grow one or two crops and largely rely on family labor—to develop effective tools and strategies to help end global hunger. And it's vital for leaders in the new administration to work with the new Congress to keep this invaluable public-private-NGO collaboration going.

U.S. efforts to end world hunger have made tremendous headway over the past 12 years. For instance, Feed for the Future is an innovative federal interagency initiative with roots in the George W. Bush administration that was expanded under President Obama. In 2015 alone, it helped more than 9 million small-scale food producers apply new technologies and practices to boost their harvests. This, in turn, led to an increase of more than \$800 million in agricultural sales for supported producers and an up to 36 percent decrease in poverty within 11 focus countries.

Indeed, investment in agriculture has proven to be one of the most effective methods of reducing overall poverty. The World Bank estimates that growth in the agriculture sector is twice as effective as growth in other sectors in reducing poverty. The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization also notes that between 1990 and 2015, progress made in more than 60 target countries toward Millennium Development Goals—global goals aimed at eradicating extreme poverty—halved the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

Through farsighted U.S. policies, food-related development programs are increasingly working in partnership with smallholder farmers to create new local and global economic opportunities—especially for women. This increased coordination helps communities move across the spectrum of

By **LINDSAY COATES**
Tribune News Service



Lindsay Coates is the president of InterAction, the largest U.S. alliance of international nongovernmental organizations. Readers may send her email at ia@interaction.org.

hunger, from emergency food assistance to increased market access and improved resilience, culminating in sustainable development.

But we can do better. With new policy tools, such as those provided by the Global Food Security Act, we can further efforts to increase local community ownership and build resilience in food production and distribution systems to both natural and man-made emergencies. We can better coordinate linkages between U.S. emergency and development food programs. And we can continue to invest in research through innovation, scaling up proven interventions to improve agricultural techniques and inputs.

Despite the recent progress, there are still too many hungry people around the globe. The new administration and Congress must remain committed to enacting smart, inclusive and effective global development policies so that everyone, regardless of where they are born, can have access to affordable, healthy, nutritious food. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the smart thing as well.

Russians did to us what we've done to others for a long time

Let's stop acting like wounded innocents.

The U.S. has been big-footing around the globe for more than a century. We have influenced elections in other countries and when that didn't work, we have deposed leaders who did not support our interests. Prominent examples include intervening several times in Central America and supporting coups that replaced elected leaders with dictators in Iran, Congo and Chile.

The Russians did to us what we have been doing to others for a long time.

Russia's motivations are clear. Last May, I participated in the Dartmouth Conference, a U.S./Russian exchange that has been going on since the Eisenhower administration. During meetings in Zavidovo, Russia, and Moscow, my Russian counterparts made clear that they preferred Donald Trump to Hillary Clinton. "We can do business with him," one of the oligarchs said.

What he didn't say at that meeting, but what U.S. participants knew from several previous discussions, were three things.

First, the Russians resented Bill Clinton for the NATO expansion of the 1990s, which Russians viewed both as a threat to their security and as an effort to humiliate Russia. (During a meeting in 2008, a retired Russian general offered a scenario for regaining control over Ukraine.) Second, Russians disliked Hillary Clinton because they believed that she was part of an Obama administration effort to effect regime change in Russia. My U.S. colleagues and I thought this was crazy, but most of our Russian counterparts seemed to believe it, and President Vladimir Putin acted on it.

Third, the Russians saw Trump as a rube who could be swayed by flattering words and profitable deals for his company.

I would put Rep. John Lewis's point about the president-elect's legitimacy this way: Whether Russia actually succeeded in swaying the election, the fact that they tried to do so weakens Trump's moral claim to the presidency. Lewis may have had another reason to challenge Trump's legitimacy: voter suppression laws that may have kept tens of thousands of African-Americans and Hispanics from voting in Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and other states. Although he did not mention that in his interview with NBC's Chuck Todd, he surely was acutely aware of it.

Trump has fulfilled the Russians' wildest fantasies by helping to undermine his own legitimacy. Rather than accept the intel-

ligence findings and express serious concern about Russia's actions, he has denigrated the intelligence community.

His refusal to release his tax returns means that suspicions about his financial dealings, including possible debts to the oligarchs, will linger throughout his presidency. And his failure to relinquish a financial interest in his company means that whenever he makes a decision, millions of Americans will ask, "How much is he getting out of this?"

Russia is not likely to relent in its efforts to influence U.S. politics any more than the U.S. is likely to stop trying to influence politics in other countries. That's what nations do. Computer hacking is just the latest weapon in an arsenal that includes everything from propaganda to poisoning.

In recent decades, the U.S. has developed norms—laws and social conventions—to protect the integrity of our elections and to ensure that our elected leaders' decisions are not corrupted by

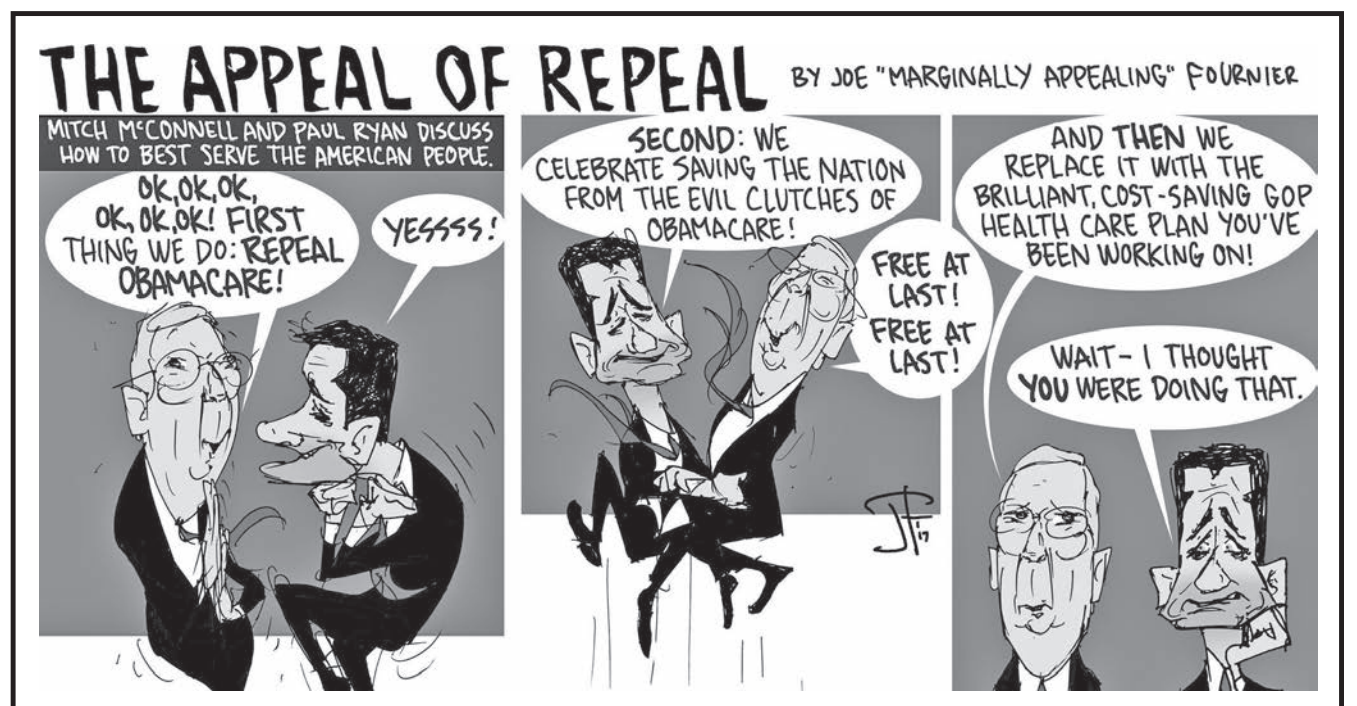
By **EDWIN DORN**
The Dallas Morning News



Edwin Dorn is a professor of public policy at the University of Texas at Austin and a former under-secretary in the Department of Defense. He wrote this for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at eddorn@mail.utexas.edu.






personal financial interests. Trump has refused to follow those norms. To the contrary, he seems to have profited from violating them.

As a result, he invites reservations about the legitimacy of his presidency and he invites accusations that his decisions are corrupt.

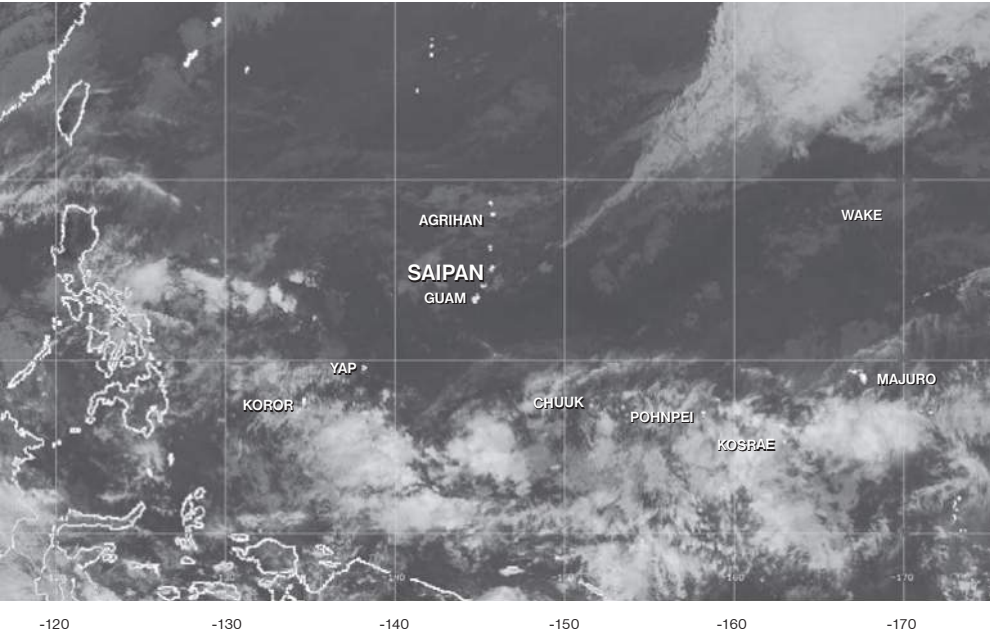


The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers are seen to the east of a trough that moved through the Marianas Saturday. As the trough continues to move farther west, cloud cover will gradually diminish through the day. Showers will remain isolated through the day, though a couple of heavy showers are still a possibility. drier conditions will then continue through the end of the week. By Friday, the models still show a weak circulation developing southeast of Yap, moving west-northwest through the weekend. It looks likely that the Marianas will see an increase in cloud cover for the weekend, but most of the showers, if not all, are still expected to remain south of Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	74° / 66°
London	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 43°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 50°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	71° / 48°
New York	Snow Shower	38° / 26°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	45° / 32°
Paris	Showers	52° / 48°
Pusan	Sunny	46° / 28°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 43°
Salem	Sunny	56° / 37°
San Francisco	Sunny	35° / 14°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 25°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°
Washington, DC	Snow Shower	38° / 29°



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:14 AM	LOW TIDE		-0.28
9:56 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.98
3:46 PM	LOW TIDE		0.94
8:50 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.89

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:14 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:12AM	8:15 PM	-
Tuesday	8:57AM	9:09 PM	-
Wednesday	9:42AM	10:04 PM	-
Thursday	10:27AM	11:00 PM	-
Friday	11:13AM	11:56 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:55am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7	PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM	UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR	UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN	PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

"Fellows will be in an environment that will foster open mindedness, creativity, and constructive problem solving... Fellows will be better able to lead, not only in their respective industries but in the bigger picture of the communities they serve and the islands in which they live."

PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS

P R O G R A M

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The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter is a non-profit, leadership development program that runs for about one year incorporating periodic sessions covering current issues facing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between the ages of 25-45
- Must reside in the CNMI for at least 1 year
- Submit completed application
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- Must attend opening weekend retreat
- Must meet minimum attendance requirement

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 27-February 17, 2017: Application Period
- February 25, 2017: Selection Saturday (Mandatory)
- March 11-12, 2017: Opening Weekend Retreat (Mandatory)

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Public urged to be aware of human trafficking red flags

Alicia Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said yesterday that all members of the public need to be aware of red flags that will assist them in identifying victims of human trafficking.

At a press briefing with members of the NMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition held at the U.S. Attorney's Office conference room at Horiguchi Building in Garapan, Limtiaco said human trafficking victims are not necessarily people coming from other countries, but even the ones who are on the islands in search of a better life.

"Many of these people, if you listen to why or how their situation may have come to be, it is about searching for a better life, truly to support their children and their families," Limtiaco said.

That means traffickers can be anyone, Limtiaco said.

"They can be single individuals. They can be family members themselves. They can be what we call mom-and-pop operation. They can be more organized criminal organizations. They can be business owners," she said.

Limtiaco said traffickers can be women, men, older individuals, or younger individuals. What is important is that there are certain red flags that assist community mem-



bers in identifying who may be a victim and that the coalition builds trust in response to persons that they believe may be at risk.

Limtiaco said the coalition continues to support the victims and their families throughout their life time because law enforcement cannot do the job alone in addressing the problem.

Limtiaco said the need to be responsive effectively and meaningfully to victims and families is one that involves the entire community.

"It's a network of support that involves non-government organizations, government agencies, and the private sector," she pointed out, referring to the Coalition.

On red flags, Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro said basically there are two kinds of human trafficking—labor and sex trafficking or a combination of both.

Ogumoro said human trafficking victim is somebody who is working every day, never had a day off, is living in the same place where that

person is working.

"They are not allowed to go out. Their employer may be holding their documents. Those are red flags that you may come across on somebody who is victim of labor trafficking. Someone who is working round the clock and not getting paid, or they not getting paid adequately," she said.

Ogumoro said a victim of sex trafficking is someone who is forced to sexual servitude to any kind.

"If they are minors you don't have to consent, or if

you are an adult, you are doing this against your will but because of the situation you do not have a way out," she said.

Limtiaco said human trafficking is modern-day slavery, where men, women, and children are bought and sold into forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other injustices.

She said it is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world.

In January 2011, the month was declared National Slavery and Human Trafficking Pre-

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Alicia Limtiaco and Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, both seated center, pose with other members of the NMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition during a press briefing yesterday.

vention Month.

Limtiaco said thousands of individuals, government agencies, anti-trafficking organizations, and faith communities are joining hands to raise awareness about human trafficking, and are committing to bring an end to this inexcusable human rights abuse.

Limtiaco asked media organizations this month to partner with the NMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition, which is a multidisciplinary coalition composed of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector.

"We strive to respond to the needs of human trafficking victims by providing support services, hold offenders accountable through enforcement and prosecution efforts, and prevent further victimization through public awareness and outreaches," she said.

The coalition is inviting community stakeholders to attend the proclamation signing designating January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month, to be held today, Monday, at 9am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. (Ferdie de la Torre)

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, home ported in Santa Rita, Guam, is returning from a two-weeklong joint law enforcement patrol with Palau and Australia under Operation Kaukledm.

The Palauan patrol boat PSS *President Remelik*, *Washington*, and aircraft contracted with Australia's Defense Cooperation Program conducted patrols within Palau's exclusive economic zone and territorial seas. The joint operation focused on the deterrence of illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, preservation of living marine resources, and enforcement of Palau's fishing laws. The Coast Guard exercises the use of bilateral agreements with Pacific Island nations, which allows the host nation to have a ship rider on board a Coast Guard asset and provides the ability to enforce the nation's fisheries laws.

During this operation, over 66,000 square nautical miles were patrolled, six commercial fishing vessels were boarded, and five illegal fish aggregating devices were dismantled.

The trilateral efforts of Operation Kaukledm identified 16 other illegal fish aggregating devices being used that

Washington returns from patrolling Palau EEZ



The U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, home ported in Santa Rita, Guam, is returning from a two-weeklong joint law enforcement patrol with the Republic of Palau and Australia under Operation Kaukledm.

will be destroyed at a later date along with identifying multiple foreign registered vessels illegally fishing within Palau's EEZ. With such dynamic assets being used during Operation Kaukledm they were also able to assist

with a suspected vessel with the Belau Drug Enforcement Task Force of Palau and medically evacuate a patient from a vessel to a local hospital.

The *Washington* also conducted training with the Palau Police Division of Marine

Law Enforcement in order to further develop their skills and develop the continuity of conducting future law enforcement operations within the region.

This has been a long awaited patrol and is vital to the working

relationship between countries. Conducting joint operations with Palau and Australia allows for standardized communication, capacity building and the preservation of resources that are vital to the Western Pacific region. (USCG)

Family grief support group meeting on Feb. 2

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPA-SI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

USCGC *Morgenthau* crew receives prestigious award

HONOLULU—The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Morgenthau* was awarded the Capt. Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award for 2016.

“From conducting replenishment and gunfire support missions during the Vietnam War to most recently patrolling the Bering Sea in support of America’s fishing industry, this ship has proven itself from Aztec shores to arctic zones and remains the ‘Pride of the Pacific,’” said Capt. Edward St. Pierre, commanding officer of USCGC *Morgenthau*. “This award is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of *Morgenthau*’s crew and I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

The Capt. Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award is presented to cutter crews that distinguish themselves from other units through exceptional performance in categories including operations and mission accomplishment, commitment to crew and families, cutter training and readiness and engineering.

In 2016, *Morgenthau*’s crew completed two three-month fisheries patrols in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, totaling more than 189 days away



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officers of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Morgenthau* show off The Capt. Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award that was presented to cutter crews that distinguish themselves from other units through exceptional performance.

from homeport ensuring the safety and integrity of an industry valued at over \$6 billion annually and accounting for more than half of the annual catch in the United States.

As a long-range law enforcement platform, the crew conducted more than 125 at-sea boardings, some in partnership with NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service.

Morgenthau was the Coast Guard’s primary response asset during five major search and rescue cases including a September 2016 rescue of a 79-year-old man adrift aboard

a disabled vessel. The vessel and operator were ultimately transported to Dutch Harbor. In October 2016, *Morgenthau*’s crew responded to the distress call of a disabled and adrift, 430-foot cargo with 11 crewmembers aboard. *Morgenthau* also towed a 105-foot crab fishing vessel and crew to Dutch Harbor during extreme heavy weather.

On the training and maintenance side, the crew maintained the highest level of readiness resulting in the crew passing a Ready For Sea assessment with flying colors in advance of a major patrol. They also achieved high unit drill and mandated training completion rates through 190 drills and the qualification of crewmembers in over 300

watchstations. Due to a robust law enforcement program, they maintained three fully qualified boarding teams of four members each, a force multiplier enabling the cutter to conduct multiple boardings simultaneously and achieve a record-breaking 70 boardings in one patrol. This set the standard for training and readiness in the Coast Guard’s cutter fleet.

The engineers maintained a 93 percent preventative maintenance completion rate, the highest in the Pacific Area cutter fleet. Their skills and knowledge were put to the test conducting an overhaul of one of the cutter’s diesel generators, an evolution which required removing the generator through a hole cut in the side of the ship. They displayed great ingenuity making repairs to a main diesel engine exhaust leak despite having been shipped the incorrect parts for the job.

While in port, the crew developed strong bonds with communities at home and abroad through volunteer service with Feed Hawaii Together, Habitat for Humanity and a beach cleanup event following the destruction of Tropical Storm Darby. The crew also volunteered at Hokulani Elementary School and while in Unalaska assisted in running a Midnight Madness event for local children and a Halloween Family Night.

The *Morgenthau* is a 378-foot high endurance cutter originally commissioned in 1969 and homeported in Honolulu. The crew currently patrols from South America to the Bering Sea, conducting counter-narcotics missions, alien migrant interdiction operations, foreign and domestic fisheries enforcement, and search and rescue. (USCG)

USS *Topeka* returns to Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Topeka* returned to its homeport of Apra Harbor, Guam, on Jan. 28 following a forward operating period to the Western Pacific.

Topeka, under the command of Cmdr. Steven Tarr III, is returning from the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility where the crew executed the Chief of Naval Operations’ Maritime Strategy in supporting national security interests and maritime security operations.

“As a submariner, Guam is the ultimate duty station,” said Tarr. “There are so many great things about the people in the local community as well as those who are here with the military—our warm homecoming is just one example. I also have the best crew in the Submarine Force, hands down. They impress me on a daily basis with their commitment and perseverance.”

Topeka conducted routine patrols throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region in support of maritime security operations that promote stability while maintaining key partnerships with allies across the region.

Topeka had a brief port visit in Yokosuka, Japan, where the crew was able to experience the amazing culture and enjoy some much deserved liberty.

“I love the opportunity to

visit new places and explore my surroundings,” said Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Deon Rogers. “This was my first time to Yokosuka, but I am already planning on making my own trip back to Japan.”

Topeka celebrated the various achievements of its crew members in their professional development.

“We had nine sailors become submarine qualified, nine crew members frocked and one officer promoted,” said Master Chief Electronics Technician Matthew Schecter. “One of the great things about this crew is that they challenge themselves not only professionally, but also personally, striving to continually better themselves.”

Topeka was commissioned Oct. 21, 1989, and is the third ship of the U.S. Navy named for the city of Topeka, Kansas. It is the fourth “improved” Los Angeles-class submarine. Measuring more than 360 feet long and displacing more than 6,900 tons, *Topeka* has a crew of approximately 140 sailors. *Topeka* is capable of supporting various missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Topeka is a member of Commander, Submarine Squadron 15, which is located at Polaris



JAMICA JOHNSON

Friends and family cheer as Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS *Topeka* pulls in to Apra Harbor Jan 28. *Topeka* is returning to homeport following a two-month forward operating period to the Western Pacific.

Point in Apra Harbor, Guam. COMSUBRON 15 staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support of four Los Angeles-class attack submarines stationed in Guam. The submarines and submarine

tenders USS *Frank Cable* and USS *Emory S. Land* are part of the U.S. Navy’s forward-deployed naval force and are capable of meeting global operational requirements. (Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 Public Affairs)

Guam base to conduct Citadel Protect Exercise

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam, along with various Navy first responders, will participate in the annual Commander, Naval Installations Command anti-terrorism/force protection exercise called Citadel Protect 2017, which will take place on Jan. 30-Feb. 2.

The Citadel Protect exercise, which will be held in Apra Harbor, is part of the Navy’s training and exercise continuum, which enables Navy security forces to train and simultaneously assess mission essential tasks and readiness across the enterprise. The exercise series focuses on command, control and communications for missions requiring a coordinated

response from both ashore and afloat units in response to waterborne improvised explosive devices and land-based active shooter threats.

The exercise involves various training scenarios that replicate real-world events, and is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units. Citadel Protect is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

This exercise will incorporate blank ammunition fire as part of the simulated attacks. Residents are advised to not be alarmed if they see or hear an increase in military presence in the Apra Harbor area. (PR)

Lunar New Year 2017

Photos by ERWIN ENCINARES



Fireworks marked the lion dance at the Hyatt Regency Saipan lobby. Lighting fireworks on the Lunar New Year is a Chinese tradition that is believed to drive away evil spirits.



Men play a drum, cymbals, and gongs to go with the lion dance.



The lions interact with the crowd of tourists as they perform a traditional lion dance at the Hyatt Regency Saipan lobby.



A lion dance is believed to bring luck and fortune to businesses, which is why the lions usually enter the business establishment. A lion is seen entering Miyako, a restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



The lion makes its way to other areas of Hyatt Regency Saipan.



The lions "rest" after performing a lion dance at the Hyatt Regency Saipan lobby. The Chinese Association of Saipan troupe visited other establishments on Saipan last Saturday.



The lions "play" with each other during the lion dance.

Business

Technology companies protest Trump immigration bar order

NEW YORK (AP) — Google, Apple and other tech giants expressed dismay over an executive order on immigration from President Donald Trump that bars nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S.

The U.S. tech industry relies on foreign engineers and other technical experts for a sizeable percentage of its workforce. The order bars entry to the U.S. for anyone from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days.

The move, ostensibly intended to prevent extremists from carrying out attacks in the U.S., could now also heighten tensions between the new Trump administration and one of the nation's most economically and culturally important industries. That's especially true if Trump goes on to revamp the industry's temporary worker permits known as H-1B visas, as some fear.

"I share your concerns" about Trump's immigration order, Apple CEO Tim Cook wrote in a memo to employees obtained by The Associated Press. "It is not a policy we support."

"We have reached out to the White House to explain the negative effect on our coworkers and our company," he added.

Cook didn't say how many Apple employees are directly affected by the order, but said the company's HR, legal and security teams are in contact to support them. "Apple would not exist without immigration, let alone thrive and innovate the way we do," Cook wrote

—an apparent reference not only to the company's foreign-born employees, but to Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, the son of a Syrian immigrant.

Netflix CEO Reed Hastings was forcefully blunt. "Trump's actions are hurting Netflix employees around the world, and are so un-American it pains us all," he wrote on Facebook. "Worse, these actions will make America less safe (through hatred and loss of allies) rather than more safe."

"It is time to link arms together to protect American values of freedom and opportunity," he continued. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg criticized the order in similar, though more carefully couched, terms on Friday.

Technology investor Chris Sacca, an early backer of Uber and Instagram, said on Twitter that he would match ACLU donations up to \$75,000 after the organization sued over the ban—and then decided to do-

nate another \$75,000, for a total of \$150,000. eBay founder Pierre Omidyar, the child of Iranians, complained that the order was "simple bigotry."

Tesla Motors and SpaceX founder Elon Musk, who has recently appeared to be cultivating a relationship with Trump, tweeted that "many people negatively affected by this policy are strong supporters of the US" who don't "deserve to be rejected." Musk is an immigrant from South Africa.

Google told its employees from those countries to cancel any travel plans outside the U.S. and to consult with the company's human resources department if they're not currently in the U.S., according to a company-wide note described to The Associated Press. That memo was first reported by Bloomberg and the Wall Street Journal.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai told employees in the note that at least 187 Google workers could be affected by Trump's order. It is not clear how many of those workers are currently traveling outside the U.S. "We've always made our views on immigration known publicly and will continue to do so," Pichai said in the memo.

although it bears a replica of its logo. And until recently, the story was often flanked by ads from big brands such as the insurer Geico, the business-news outlet Financial Times, and the beauty-products maker Revlon. This situation isn't remotely an isolated case, although major companies generally say they have no intention of bankrolling purveyors of fake news with their ad dollars. Because many of their ads are placed on websites by computer algorithms, it's not always easy for these companies to steer them away from sites they find objectionable.

Koch political network to spend \$300M to \$400M over 2 years

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)—The conservative Koch network plans to spend between \$300 million and \$400 million to influence politics and public policy over the next two years, intensifying its nationwide efforts in the initial years of Donald Trump's presidency. Network officials disclosed their rough spending plans Saturday as donors gathered at a luxury hotel in the California desert. The investment, backed by the organization's extensive nationwide network, positions the billionaire industrialist family to play a major role in the debate over several Trump priorities—even those they oppose. "We're just getting started," billionaire industrialist Charles Koch said at the opening reception for the weekend conference, which attracted more than 550 donors, each willing to donate at least \$100,000 each year to the various conservative political and policy groups backed by the Koch brothers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trump sets 5-year and lifetime lobbying ban for officials

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump acted Saturday to fulfill a key portion of his pledge to "drain the swamp" in Washington, banning administration officials from ever lobbying the U.S. on behalf of a foreign government and imposing a separate five-year ban on other lobbying. Trump has said individuals who want to aid him in his quest to "Make America Great Again" should focus on the jobs they will be doing to help the American people, not thinking ahead to the future income they could rake in by peddling their influence after serving in government. "Most of the people standing behind me will not be able to go to work," Trump joked, referring to an array of White House officials who lined up behind him as he sat at his Oval Office desk. The officials included Vice President Mike Pence, chief of staff Reince Priebus, senior strategist Steve Bannon and counselor Kellyanne Conway.

Intentionally or not, big brands help fund fake news

NEW YORK (AP)—Wittingly or not, major global corporations are helping fund sites that traffic in fake news by advertising on them. Take, for instance, a story that falsely claimed former President Barack Obama had banned Christmas cards to overseas military personnel. Despite debunking by The Associated Press and other fact-checking outlets, that article lives on at "Fox News The FB Page," which has no connection to the news channel

Nation

UNDER TRUMP TRAVEL BAN US judge bars deportations



A protester raises her fist and shouts as she joins others assembled at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 after two Iraqi refugees were detained while trying to enter the country.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge issued an emergency order Saturday night temporarily barring the U.S. from deporting people from nations subject to President Donald Trump's travel ban, saying travelers who had been detained had a strong argument that their legal rights had been violated.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly in New York issued the emergency order after lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union filed a court petition on behalf of people from seven predominantly Muslim nations who were detained at airports across the country as the ban took effect.

The judge's order affected only a portion of Trump's executive action. As the decision was announced, cheers broke out in crowds of demonstrators who had gathered at American airports and outside the Brooklyn courthouse where the ruling was issued.

The order barred U.S. border agents from removing anyone who arrived in the U.S. with a valid visa from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen. It also covered anyone with an approved refugee application.

It was unclear how quickly the judge's order might affect people in detention, or whether it would allow others to resume flying.

"Realistically, we don't even know if people are going to be allowed onto the planes," said ACLU lawyer Lee Gelernt. "This order

would protect people who they allow to come here and reach U.S. soil."

Under Trump's order, it had appeared that an untold number of foreign-born U.S. residents now traveling outside the U.S. could be stuck overseas for at least 90 days even though they held permanent residency "green cards" or other visas. However, an official with the Department of Homeland Security said Saturday night that no green-card holders from the seven countries cited in Trump's order had been prevented from entering the U.S.

Some foreign nationals who were allowed to board flights before the order was signed Friday had been detained at U.S. airports, told they were no longer welcome. The DHS official who briefed reporters by phone said 109 people who were in transit on airplanes had been denied entry and 173 had not been allowed to get on their planes overseas.

In her three-page order, Donnelly wrote that without the stay "there will be substantial and irreparable injury to refugees, visa-holders and other individuals from nations subject to the Jan. 27, 2017, executive order."

Trump billed his sweeping executive order as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the U.S. It included a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen and a 120-day suspension of the U.S. refugee program.

Trump's order singled out Syrians for the most aggressive ban, indefinitely blocking entry for anyone from that country, including those fleeing civil war.

The directive did not do anything to prevent attacks from homegrown extremists who were already in America, a primary concern of federal law enforcement officials. It also omitted Saudi Arabia, home to most of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

As a candidate Trump pledged to temporarily ban Muslims from coming to the U.S., then said he would implement "extreme vetting" for people from countries with significant terror concerns. He told reporters Saturday the order is "not a Muslim ban."

"It's working out very nicely," Trump said of the implementation of his order. "We're going to have a very, very strict ban and we're going to have extreme vetting, which we should have had in this country for many years."

The order sparked protests at several of the nation's international airports, including New York's Kennedy and Chicago's O'Hare and facilities in Minneapolis and Dallas-Forth Worth. In San Francisco, hundreds blocked the street outside the arrival area of the international terminal. Several dozen demonstrated at the airport in Portland, Oregon, briefly disrupting light rail service while hoisting signs that read "Portland Coffee Is From Yemen" and chanting anti-Trump slogans.

Asia

Survey says Filipinos want their rights asserted in disputed sea

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Most Filipinos want their government to assert the country's rights in the disputed South China Sea after an arbitration tribunal invalidated China's vast territorial claims and ruled the Philippines can fish and exploit resources in the contested waters, according to an opinion poll released Friday.

The Dec. 6-11 survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia showed 84 percent of 1,200 adult Filipinos polled nationwide agreed the government should uphold its rights in the disputed waters. It said 3 percent disagreed and 12 percent neither agreed nor disagreed. The survey had a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

President Rodrigo Duterte has rapidly improved once-

frosty relations with China and declined to forcefully and immediately demand its compliance with the July 12 arbitration ruling, which Beijing has refused to recognize.

That prompted China to allow Filipinos to resume fishing at the disputed Scarborough Shoal, which the Chinese coast guard seized in 2012. Following that move, the Philippine government under then President Benigno Aquino III brought its disputes with China to international arbitration, angering Beijing.

While Duterte has reached out to China, he has lashed out at the administration of then President Barack Obama and the U.S. State Department for raising human rights concerns about his deadly anti-drug crackdown, which

has left thousands of drug suspects dead.

Duterte has repeatedly threatened to scale back military exercises with American troops and stop agreements that allow U.S. forces to visit, including an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement that was signed in 2014 to allow U.S. forces to be temporarily stationed in designated Philippine military camps, along with their aircraft, ships and defense equipment.

Duterte and his security officials, however, have frequently walked back on their threats. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Thursday that "EDCA is still on," adding that the Pentagon plans to start constructing facilities inside designated Philippine military camps.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Boat with 31 mostly Chinese tourists missing in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A boat carrying 31 people, including around 20 Chinese tourists, is missing after sailing out from an eastern Malaysian city, Chinese state media said Sunday. The Chinese Consulate General in Kota Kinabalu in the Malaysian state of Sabah said the boat lost contact after leaving Kota Kinabalu on Saturday morning, according to the official Xinhua News Agency said. It was bound for Pulau Mengalum, an island about 60 kilometers (38 miles) west of the city. The report cited the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency as saying there were 28 Chinese tourists on board. But the Chinese Consulate could only confirm the passport details of 18 Chinese citizens, Xinhua said. Malaysia deployed search and rescue ships and helicopters after receiving a call Saturday night about the boat's disappearance, Xinhua reported.

Philippine airstrikes kill suspected Indonesian militant

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military chief says a suspected Indonesian militant has been killed and one of Southeast Asia's top terror suspects is fighting for his life after they were hit in airstrikes in the country's south. Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said Sunday the body of the suspected Indonesian, known by his nom-

de guerre Mohisen, was recovered by troops along with three Filipino followers of militant leader Isnilon Hapilon, who was seriously wounded in the hilly outskirts of Butig town in Lanao del Sur province. Ano tells The Associated Press Hapilon was wounded in the arm and was losing blood. Air force warplanes, including South Korean-made FA50 fighter jets deployed in a combat mission for the first time, unleashed 500-pound (225-kilogram) bombs on Wednesday and Thursday.

Thailand separates LGBT inmates, considers segregated prison

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)—Theerayut Charoenpakdee was terrified when police stopped her outside a mall in Pattaya, a Thai resort famous for its sordid nightlife. A urine test on the spot revealed meth coursing through her veins. "I thought I was going to be thrown in prison with all the men because I still have the title of Mr.," the transgender woman said. "I was afraid. News and TV tells us that being sent to prison is scary." It turned out not to be the ordeal she expected. The prison she was destined for—Pattaya Remand—separates lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender prisoners from other inmates, a little-known policy despite being in place nationwide since 1993, according to the Department of Corrections. Thailand, often described as a haven for gay people, has

around 300,000 prisoners, of which more than 6,000 are registered as sexual minorities. And that's not all. The Thai government is also considering what could be the world's first prison facility exclusively for LGBT inmates. While the plans are still being discussed, in Pattaya and other prisons across Thailand LGBT prisoners are kept apart to prevent violence, officials say.

In frigid cold, Mongolians stand in protest of air pollution

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (AP)—Thousands of Mongolians stood in frigid weather Saturday for the second time this winter to protest the government response to smog that routinely blankets their capital. An estimated 7,000 people, many of them wearing air masks and gas masks underneath thick winter hats, braved temperatures that fell below minus 20 degrees Celsius (minus 4 Fahrenheit). Standing in the city's central Sukhbataar Square, they held black balloons and protest signs. One banner read: "Wake up and smell the smog." Ulaanbaatar is one of the world's coldest capitals, and more than half of the city's 1.3 million residents rely on burning raw coal, plastic, rubber tires and other materials to stay warm and cook meals in their homes. In impoverished neighborhoods that ring the city, known as ger districts, many herders and others live in traditional round tents without heating, leaving them to burn polluting fuels.

World

Despair, confusion as travel ban hits



Protesters assemble at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 after two Iraqi refugees were detained while trying to enter the country. AP

An Iraqi pleaded for his life to President Donald Trump. A longtime New Yorker, born in Syria, wondered how he would get home from a trip abroad. Church groups, geared up to welcome refugee families, looked in dismay at homes prepared for families that may never arrive.

Despair and confusion set in Saturday among citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries who found themselves abruptly unable to enter the United States a day after Trump signed an order he billed as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the U.S.

Included is a 90-day ban on travel to the U.S. by citizens of Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen and a 120-day suspension of the U.S. refugee program.

Travelers from those nations were either barred from getting on their flights or detained at U.S. airports after they landed, including tourists, foreign students and people trying to visit friends and family.

"What's next? What's going to happen next?" asked Mohammed al Rawi, an Iraqi-born American citizen in the Los Angeles area, after his 69-year-old father, coming to visit his grandchildren in California, was abruptly detained and sent back to Iraq after 12 hours in custody. "Are they going to create camps for Muslims and put us in it?"

After an appeal from civil liberties lawyers, a federal judge in New York issued an emergency order Saturday

night barring the U.S. from summarily deporting people who had arrived with valid visas or an approved refugee application.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly said travelers had a strong argument that their legal rights had been violated. Her order, though, only affected a portion of Trump's order.

That ruling came as protests broke out at several U.S. airports where travelers were being held, including a gathering of several hundred people outside San Francisco's main airport and a raucous demonstration of at least 2,000 people at New York's Kennedy International Airport.

Hameed Khalid Darweesh, a translator and assistant for the U.S. military in Iraq for 10 years now fleeing death threats, was among at least a dozen people detained at New York's Kennedy airport their arrivals Friday and Saturday.

He walked free midday Friday after his lawyers and two members of congress went to the airport to try and gain his release.

"This is the soul of America," Darweesh told a crowd of demonstrators and reporters, adding that the U.S. was home to "the greatest people in the world."

Others were less lucky. Parisa Fasihianifard, 24, arrived after a long trip from Tehran, Iran, only to be detained and told she had to go home.

"She was crying and she told me she was banned to come inside and go through the gates," said her husband Mohamad Zandian, 26, an

Iranian doctoral student at Ohio State University. He was hoping to get her out of the country on a late night flight to avoid her being jailed until Monday.

Staff at U.S. agencies that resettle refugees were scrambling to analyze the order and girded for the wrenching phone calls that would have to be made to the thousands of refugees just days away from traveling to the U.S. Several staff who spoke to the AP burst into tears as they contemplated the future for people who had waited years to come into the country.

"It's complete chaos," said Melanie Nezer, policy director for HIAS, one of nine refugee resettlement agencies that work with the U.S. State Department.

The International Refugee Assistance Project, which aids foreign nationals targeted for their work for the U.S. government as well as other refugees, was sending the same message to asylum-seekers, most of them who had been waiting for years.

Meathaq Alaunaibi, also a refugee from Iraq, was hoping to soon be reunited with her twin 18-year-old daughters who are in Baghdad. Alaunaibi, her husband, a son and another daughter were settled last August in Tennessee, as the twins completed their government review to enter the U.S. After Trump signed the order, she spoke by phone with her daughters.

"They are so worried and afraid because they're stuck there in Baghdad," Alaunaibi said Saturday. "They are young and they are strong, but I am crying all the time. I miss them."

Health & Fitness

AP-NORC Poll: Broad worries about potential health care loss

WASHINGTON (AP)—Though “Obamacare” still divides Americans, a majority worry that many will lose coverage if the 2010 law is repealed in the nation’s long-running political standoff over health care.

A new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 56 percent of U.S. adults are “extremely” or “very”

concerned that many will lose health insurance if the health overhaul is repealed. That includes more than 8 in 10 Democrats, nearly half of independents, and more than 1 in 5 Republicans. Another 45 percent of Republicans say they’re “somewhat” concerned.

“No one should go without health care for even a day,” said Wendy Narug of De-

Motte, Indiana, a small town south of Gary. A political independent who leans Republican, Narug works caring for people with disabilities. She favors repealing the Obama health law, but not until Congress and President Donald Trump have a replacement ready.

■ ■ ■

The future of the Affordable Care Act is unclear, stir-



AP
In this Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, file photo, Xonjenese Jacobs, right, helps Kristen Niemi sign up for the Affordable Care Act during a healthcare expo at the University of South Florida, in Tampa, Fla.

statement Thursday that the government has withdrawn about \$5 million in ads as part of an effort to cut costs. The statement said HHS has already spent more than \$60 million to promote sign-ups this year under former President Barack Obama’s health care law. Former Obama officials immediately accused the new administration of “sabotage.” Calling the decision “outrageous,” former HealthCare.gov CEO Kevin Counihan said in a statement that the move could keep young, healthy people from getting into the insurance pool, thereby driving up costs. “We know that more young people enroll during the final days of open enrollment, but they need to be reminded of the Jan. 31 deadline,” Counihan said.

Dutch put millions into birth control fund

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—The Dutch government announced Saturday it’s putting 10 million euros (\$10.7 million) into an international fund it has launched to finance access to birth control, abortion and sex education for women in developing nations after President Donald Trump cut U.S. funding for such services.

Lilianne Ploumen, the minister for foreign trade and development cooperation, said she was making the initial contribution and launched the fund—“She Decides—Global Fundraising Initiative”—

with a website.

Ploumen said she has received thousands of reactions—the vast majority of them positive—since announcing the fund Tuesday. That move came a day after Trump signed an executive memorandum reinstituting a ban on U.S. funding to international groups that perform abortions or even provide information about abortions.

The ban has been instituted by U.S. Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984. President Barack Obama last lifted it in 2009.

Ploumen said an international sexual health and rights organization based in the Netherlands, the Rutgers Foundation, will manage the new fund. She said the withdrawal of U.S. money will create a huge funding gap that can only be filled through a robust reaction by governments, aid organizations and private donors.

The fund will “prevent women and girls being abandoned,” she added. “Because they, too, must be able to decide for themselves if they want children, with whom and when.”

ring up financial and medical concerns for many consumers. It leaves some to wonder, What now? Experts say the best thing to do is to focus on the here and now—including the Jan. 31 deadline to sign up. About 11.5 million people nationally had signed up for coverage through the ACA’s public exchanges as of the end of December. President Donald Trump has vowed to repeal it, but lawmakers have yet to reach an agreement on a replacement. “What we have seen, certainly following the

election but it continues today, is uncertainty,” said Jennifer Sullivan, vice president of programs at Enroll America. “The truth is no one knows how the law will fare this year, the uncertainty is warranted.” (AP)

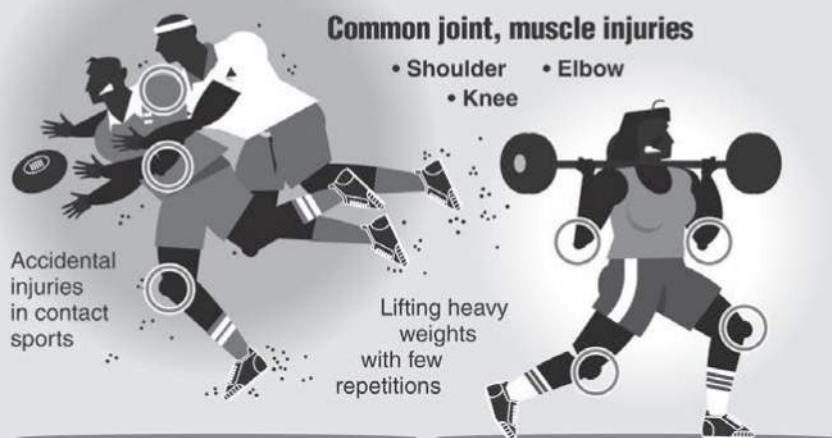
■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration says it is pulling back advertising to promote HealthCare.gov as open enrollment draws to a close for this year. The Health and Human Services Department said in a

Personal Trainer

Warning to ‘weekend warriors’

Trying to pack a week’s worth of sports and exercise into Saturday and Sunday sets up many “weekend warriors” for injury.



Does not improve fitness

None of these increase significantly if two-day workouts are followed by five sedentary days

- Strength
- Flexibility
- Endurance



Escaping the weekend syndrome

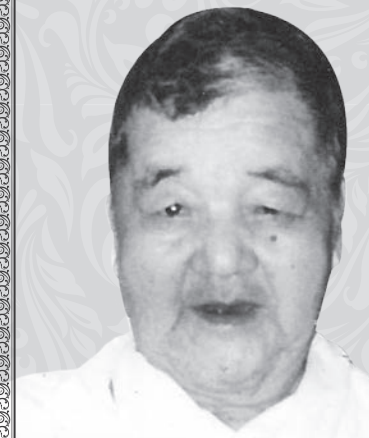
Get at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity every day

- Playing with children
- Working in garden
- Walking dog
- Taking stairs instead of riding elevator



Source: Dr. Kevin Plancher, WebMD; American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

In Loving Memory of Luis Toves Hocog



We, the family of Luis, invite all of our family members and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of a beloved husband, father, grandfather & great grandfather.

Daily mass will be offered at Kristo Rai Church, 6:00am beginning January 25, 2017 to February 2, 2017. Nightly rosary will be held at 7:00pm at the residence of Lourdes S. Hocog in Sadog Tasi.

On the last night, February 2nd, an appreciation dinner will be served immediately after the rosary.

Your thoughts, presence and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

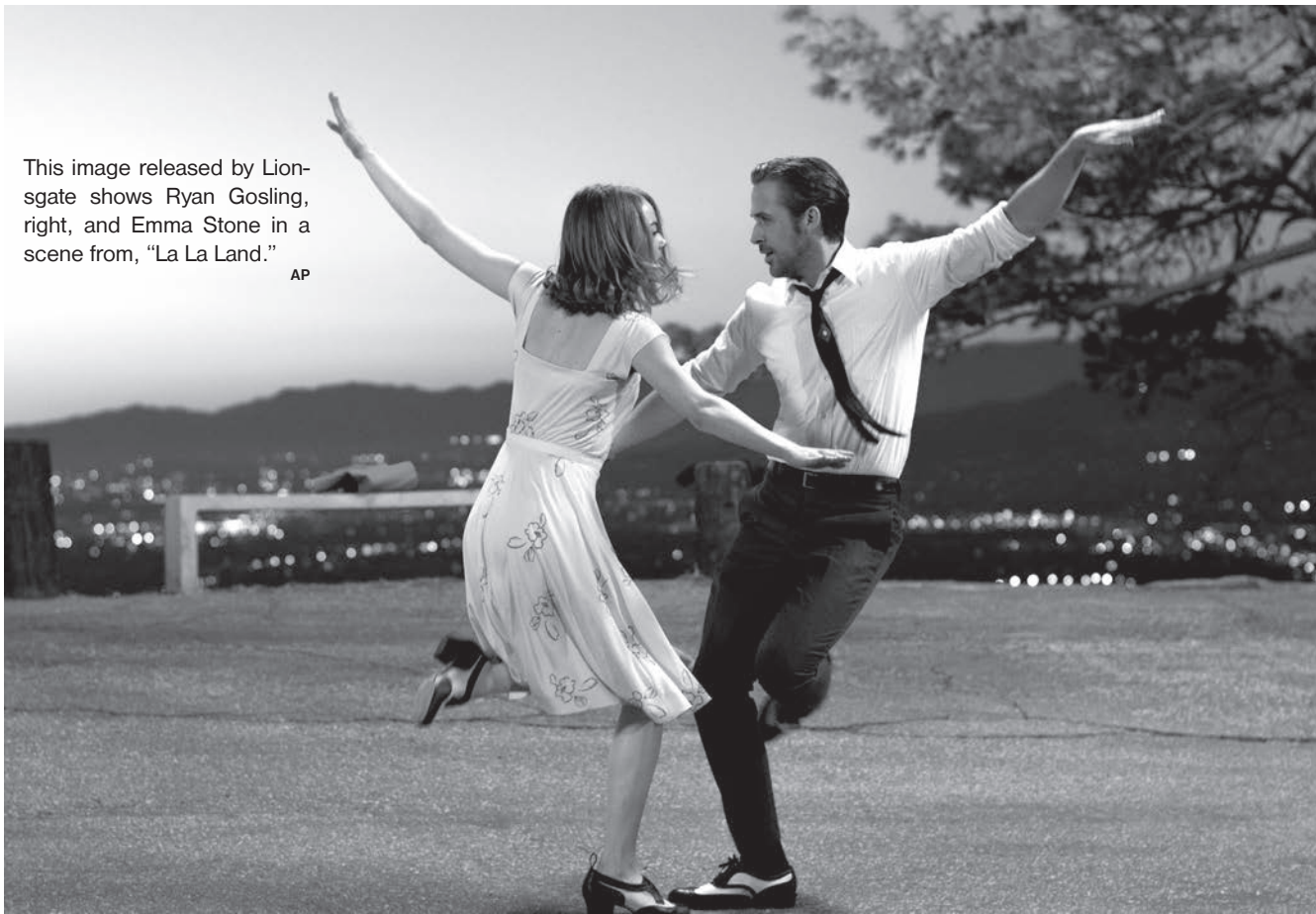
Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From Lourdes S. Hocog, Children and Family

Life & Style

10 films vie for Producers Guild Awards on the road to Oscar

This image released by Lionsgate shows Ryan Gosling, right, and Emma Stone in a scene from, "La La Land." AP



BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

(AP)—The movies vying for top honors at the Producers Guild Awards are nearly identical to those up for best picture at the Oscars, with the exception of "Deadpool."

Producers included the superhero romp among its 10 nominees for the Darryl F. Zanuck Award, along with "Arrival," "Fences," "Hidden Figures," "Hacksaw Ridge," "Hell or High Water," "Lion," "La La Land," "Manchester By the Sea"

and "Moonlight."

The winner will be revealed Saturday night during a ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. Producers have predicted the Oscars' best-picture winner for seven of the eight past years. The groups diverged last year, when the guild picked "The Big Short" and the film academy chose "Spotlight."

The Producers Guild will also present awards in nine other film and TV categories.

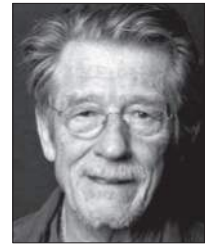
John Hurt, Oscar nominated for "The Elephant Man" dies at 77

LOS ANGELES (AP)—

The versatile actor Sir John Hurt, who could move audiences to tears in "The Elephant Man," terrify them in "Alien," and spoof that very same scene in "Spaceballs," has died. He was 77.

Hurt, who battled pancreatic cancer, died Friday in London according to his agent Charles McDonald.

Twice nominated for an Oscar for playing the tortured John Merrick in David Lynch's "The Elephant Man" and for his role as the heroin addict Max in



Hurt

"Midnight Express," Hurt's career spanned over 50 years. After minor television and film appearances, his breakout came in 1966 as Richard Rich in Fred Zinnemann's "A Man For All Seasons," followed by his portrayal of Caligula in the BBC miniseries "I, Claudius" in 1976.

The wiry Hurt brought gravitas to Alan Parker's 1978 film "Midnight Express," for which he received a supporting actor Oscar nomination (he lost to Christopher Walken for "The Deer Hunter") and an uneasy humor to Kane in Ridley Scott's "Alien," immortalized by his disturbing death scene, which Mel Brooks later poked fun at with Hurt's help in "Spaceballs."

"It was terribly sad today to learn of John Hurt's passing," Mel Brooks wrote on Twitter. "He was a truly magnificent talent."

Hurt is unrecognizable in perhaps his most memorable role as the lead in David Lynch's "The Elephant Man." He endured eight hours in the makeup chair daily to transform into John Merrick. The elaborate mask prohibited him from sleeping lying down or

even eating while it was on. His would eat his last meal midmorning as the mask was being applied—usually raw eggs mixed in orange juice—and not again until after midnight.

"To be quite honest, the film was misery to make because of the physical problems, so if it's working I'm jumping

for joy," Hurt said in a 1980 interview. Hurt did score a lead actor Oscar nomination for the role, but lost out to Robert De Niro's performance in "Raging Bull."

Hurt was also a prolific voice actor, appearing as Hazel in the animated "Watership Down," and as Aragorn in Ralph Bakshi's "The Lord of the Rings." He also voiced The Horned King in "The Black Cauldron" and provided the narration for "Dogville."

In the "Harry Potter" films, Hurt played the wand-maker Mr. Ollivander. In recent years, he appeared in notable fare such as "Melancholia," "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," "Only Lovers Left Alive" and "Snowpiercer."

"We're all just passing time, and occupy our chair very briefly," Hurt said in a 2015 interview while undergoing treatments for the early stage cancer.

As prolific as ever, Hurt recently appeared alongside his "V for Vendetta" co-star Natalie Portman in the Oscar-nominated film "Jackie" as a priest who consoles and advises the recently widowed first lady.

Hurt leaves behind a few in production credits, including Joe Wright's "Darkest Hour" which is listed as still filming. Hurt plays Neville Chamberlain in the film about Winston Churchill's charge against Hitler. Gary Oldman plays Churchill.

Film academy troubled by possible visa ban of Oscar nominee

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

(AP)—The motion picture academy calls "extremely troubling," the possible visa ban of Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, whose feature film "The Salesman" is nominated for a best foreign language Oscar.

In a statement released Saturday, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences expressed concern that Farhadi and his cast and crew may not be permitted to attend next

month's Oscar ceremony in Los Angeles following President Trump's plan to temporarily suspend issuing visas for people from Iran and six other Muslim countries.

Farhadi has not commented on his travel plans, but on Friday, the president of the National Iranian American Council, Trita Parsi, tweeted:

"Confirmed: Iran's Asghar Farhadi won't be let into the US to attend Oscar's."



Farhadi

On Thursday, Iranian actress Taraneh Alidoosti, star of the "The Salesman," tweeted she would boycott the Oscars—whether allowed to attend or not—in protest of Trump's immigration policies, which she called "racist."

In its statement Saturday, the academy said, "As supporters of filmmakers—and the human rights of all people—around the globe, we find it extremely troubling that Asghar Farhadi, the director of the Oscar-winning film from Iran 'A Separation,' along with the cast and crew of this year's Oscar-nominated film 'The Salesman,' could be barred from entering the country because of their religion or country of origin."

Decades-old slaying of Righteous Brothers singer's ex solved

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators used a controversial DNA testing method to solve the decades-old killing of the ex-wife of Righteous Brothers singer Bill Medley, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said.

Karen Klaas was attacked Jan. 30, 1976 as she returned to her home in Hermosa Beach. The 32-year-old was sexually assaulted, strangled with her pantyhose and never regained

consciousness. She died a few days later at the hospital.

The sheriff's department said Friday that the case "was solved through the use of familial DNA, which identified the killer," but provided no other details.

The technique, which has raised ethical issues in the forensics community, allows investigators to search law enforcement databases to identify likely relatives of the per-

son who may have committed the crime. Law enforcement officials have argued the technique can provide valuable leads to investigators.

A sheriff's spokeswoman would not say Friday evening whether investigators had formally made an arrest in the case and declined to identify the suspect. Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell, District Attorney Jackie Lacey and other officials are expected to release

additional information at a news conference Monday.

Sheriff's investigators, seeking help from the public in 2009, said two witnesses spotted a shaggy-haired, bearded man in a trench coat and blue jeans leaving the house, but the man was never seen again. Officials said they were able to cuff together a DNA profile of Klaas' killer but in 2009 said it hadn't matched anyone in the national DNA database.

Feds: Arrests in scam banking on 'Hamilton,' Adele shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Two men were charged Friday with roles in Ponzi schemes that cheated wealthy people, including some who believed they were investing in ticket businesses for popular shows like an Adele concert and Broadway's "Hamilton."

Joseph Meli, 42, of Manhattan, and Steven Simmons, 48, of Wilton, Connecticut, were

arrested on charges alleging they enticed wealthy individuals to make multi-million-dollar investments.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said in a civil complaint that the Ponzi schemes led people in 13 states to invest \$81 million. Meli's scheme included investments in businesses that would buy large

blocks of tickets for major concerts and musicals, authorities said.

The SEC said at least \$51 million of the \$81 million was diverted to pay off other investors or for personal expenses of coconspirators. Simmons was not charged in the civil complaint, but both men were charged criminally with conspiracy, securities

fraud and wire fraud.

They were each freed on \$1 million bail as U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. Francis IV rejected a prosecutor's request that they be held without bail.

Simmons declined to comment as he left Manhattan federal court, though his attorney noted he had no criminal record. Meli's attorneys called the accusations false.

Justin Bieber gets hit, bounces back in celeb hockey game

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber got a taste of NHL hockey and the Staples Center glass Saturday, courtesy of NHL great Chris Pronger.

The pop star responded by showing off skills that would not have looked out of place in his native Canada during a

celebrity exhibition game.

Bieber was driven into the boards in the first half by a laughing Pronger, who spent 18 years in the league as a hard-nosed defenseman. The singer responded with an empty-net goal and an assist as Team Gretzky beat Team

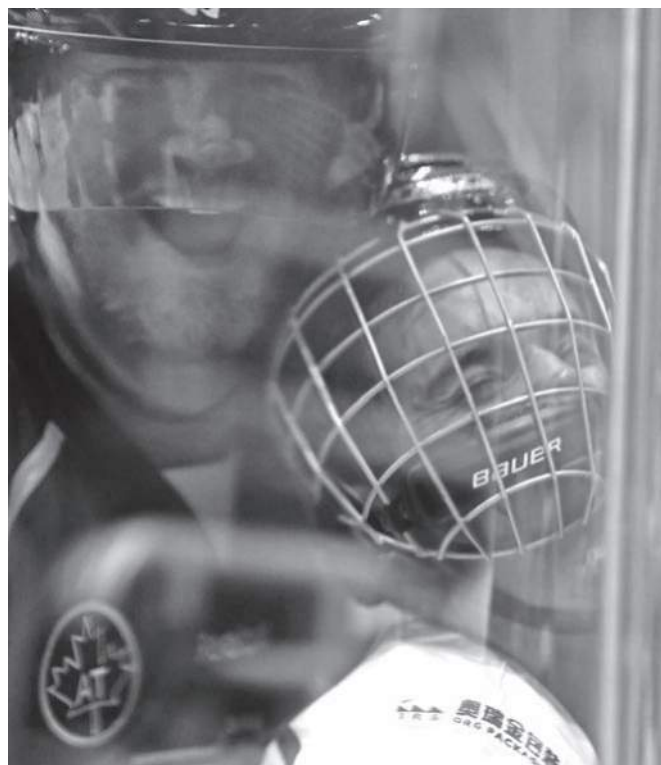
Lemieux 5-3 in the 2017 NHL All-Star Celebrity Shootout.

Bieber did not look out of place while sharing the ice with current NHL stars Connor McDavid of the Edmonton Oilers and the Chicago Blackhawks' Patrick Kane, along with a host of retired greats and hockey-loving entertainment figures.

Although he did miss two penalty shots, Bieber scored a goal as time expired, prompting actor Cuba Gooding Jr. to joke, "Twenty-five shots later, thank God he made it."

"I was shocked at how good the kid can play," said Gooding, who scored the winning goal. "He really has nice skills, and he's a real sweet kid, too."

Pictures posted to the NHL's Instagram account showed a smiling Bieber



AP
Singer Justin Bieber, who is playing for Team Gretzky, is pushed into the glass by Chris Pronger of Team Lemieux during the first period of the NHL All-Star Celebrity Shootout at Staples Center, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, in Los Angeles.

with Wayne Gretzky in the locker room. Bieber will be back at Staples Center on Feb. 12 as he is nominated for four Grammys, including Album of the Year and Song of the Year.

Local Southern California favorites including Luc Robitaille and Teemu Selanne wore patches on their jerseys honoring Canadian actor Alan Thicke, a longtime fan of the Los Angeles Kings who died in December while playing hockey.

The royal scoop: Documents from King George III go online

LONDON (AP)—An enormous cache of historical documents from Britain's royal archives detailing the reign of King George III is going online Saturday as part of the royal family's effort to rehabilitate the legacy of the monarch widely regarded as having been insane.

The monarch—America's last king—is often referred to as "mad King George." He was Britain's longest reigning king, ruling from 1760-1820. He suffered from a rare inherited blood disorder, porphyria, which comes with symptoms including insomnia, high blood pressure, sensitivity to sunlight and confusion, which during George's lifetime were seen as signs of insanity.

The portal goes online with the endorsement of Queen Elizabeth II, as part of a five-year project to digitalize 350,000 documents in the archives' collection of Georgian papers.

One of the key documents is a handwritten draft letter of abdication that the king wrote in 1783. Heavily marked with corrections, the letter was written during a political crisis caused by the difficulties in forming a government.

Referring to his apparent inability to resolve the crisis, the king writes: "I am therefore resolved to resign my crowns and all the dominions appertaining to it to the Prince of

Wales, my eldest son and lawful successor."

The abdication letter was never used.

The documents also show a keen interest in the 1775-1783 American revolutionary war to overthrow British rule in 13 American colonies. The U.S. declared independence on July 4, 1776.



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Key Till witness gave false testimony, historian says

NEW YORK (AP)—The woman at the center of the trial of Emmett Till's alleged killers has acknowledged that she falsely testified he made physical and verbal threats, according to a new book. Historian Timothy B. Tyson told The Associated Press on Saturday that Carolyn Donham broke her long public silence in an interview with him in 2008. His book, "The Blood of Emmett Till," comes out next week. "She told me that 'Nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him,'" said Tyson, a Duke University research scholar whose previous books include "Blood Done Sign My Name" and "Radio Free Dixie." Emmett Till was a 14-year-old black tortured and killed in 1955 in Missis-

sippi after allegedly whistling at a white woman, then known as Carolyn Bryant. His murder became national news, was a galvanizing event in the civil rights movement and has been the subject of numerous books and movies. During the trial, Bryant said that he had grabbed her, and, in profane terms, bragged about his history with white woman. The jury was not present when she testified. Donham's then-husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, were acquitted by the all-white jury. Both men, who later told Look magazine they did murder Till, have since died.

Grammys, CBS to honor Bee Gees with tribute concert

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Recording Academy and CBS will pay tribute to

the Bee Gees two days after the Grammys with a concert featuring a range of artists, including Celine Dion, Andra Day, John Legend and Keith Urban. The show, "Stayin' Alive: A Grammy Salute to the Music of the Bee Gees," will mark the 40th anniversary of the pop legends' soundtrack to "Saturday Night Fever," according to a joint announcement released Friday. Barry Gibb, the sole surviving member and co-founder of the Grammy-winning group who released a solo album late last year, will perform a selection of hits from the soundtrack, which won a Grammy for album of the year for 1978. The concert will be taped Feb. 14 at the Microsoft Theater, to be broadcast on CBS later this year. Little Big Town, Nick Jonas, Tori Kelly, Demi Lovato and the Pentatonix are

among others to perform, with additions expected.

Mischa Barton taken to hospital after reports of yelling

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say actress Mischa Barton was taken to the hospital after law enforcement was called to a southern California apartment. Sgt. Enrique Manduga of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department tells The Associated Press deputies and emergency responders found Barton at a West Hollywood apartment following a report of a woman yelling at about 7 a.m. Thursday. Manduga says emergency responders took Barton to the hospital. He had no word on her condition. Barton's representative didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The 31-year-old Barton is best

known for her role on the Fox teen drama, "The O.C."

Dylan, Muse, among headliners for Firefly Music Festival

DOVER, Del. (AP)—Bob Dylan and British alt-rockers Muse are among the headliners for this year's Firefly Music Festival in Delaware. Also sharing top billing at the sixth edition of the East Coast's largest music festival are Canadian alternative R&B singer The Weeknd, hip hop artist Chance the Rapper and Twenty One Pilots. The lineup, which features more than 140 acts, also includes Weezer, The Shins, Flume and Thirty Seconds to Mars. The festival will be held from June 15-18 in Dover. It's touted as the first "fan-curated" music festival, with fans weighing in on participating artists, attractions and activities.

Wife can't muster sympathy when husband gets a cold

DEAR ABBY: I feel like a terrible wife when my husband gets sick—not majorly sick, but with a run-of-the-mill cold. Men can be terrible babies when they are sick. It is a COLD! He's not dying. I happen to have a cold right now, and I am functioning just fine and not moaning and groaning about it.

Also, I am not his mother! When he whines, I shut down or become touchy and crabby. If he doesn't whine, I'm happy to take care of him, but I can't take the time during the day to lie in bed with him (I work from home, so I am accessible to him) to keep him warm. I can't stay up until midnight rubbing his back, and I cannot tolerate the sappy whining.

I made him aware of my disdain for the way sick men behave a number of years ago, but he still acts like the world is ending when he has a cold. How do I tend to him without feeling resentful?

NOT HIS MOTHER

DEAR NOT HIS MOTHER: Cold season is in full swing now. Your husband didn't catch one on purpose. When people feel fragile they need TLC, and he is no exception.

Here's how to "tend" to him: Keep a supply of chicken soup on hand, and insist he keep drinking it to stay hydrat-

ed. (Chicken soup has magical curative powers.) If he has a headache, there are over-the-counter meds he can take, so suggest it when he complains. While you're at the pharmacy, buy a heating pad and an extension cord for him so you can keep working if he has the chills. (You probably caught his cold while you were cuddling.) Sanitize any surface he may have touched.

Even if you aren't feeling sympathetic, try to appear as if you are—and keep your sense of humor. A final suggestion: Sleep apart until he's no longer contagious, which may give him an incentive to recover faster.

DEAR ABBY: Every year, my adult siblings and mother exchange Christmas gifts. Since my husband died in 2012, my sister has told me she has made a gift in our name to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She also makes a production of telling this to my children.

Abby, the MDA sends the person in whose name a donation has been made a notification about it, but we have never received a notice of any kind from them. When I contacted them and asked, I was told a donation was never received.

I always give my sister an expensive gift. After finding out what has been going on, I am really upset. Is this acceptable? I have no problem with not exchanging gifts, but this seems to be

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



a way to receive without giving.

HURT IN GEORGIA

DEAR HURT: Lying is not acceptable, and your sister should be ashamed of herself if that's what has been going on. Tell her that, having received no notification from the MDA acknowledging her donation, you contacted them to ask why and were "shocked" to hear no donation had been made. If she can't produce proof of payment, from now on agree to exchange Christmas cards—if you're still speaking.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

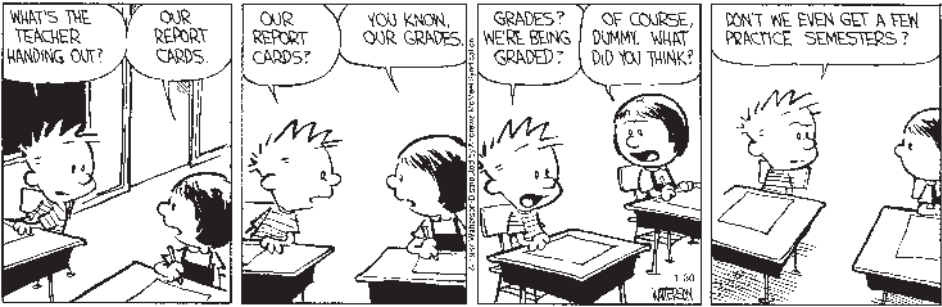
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

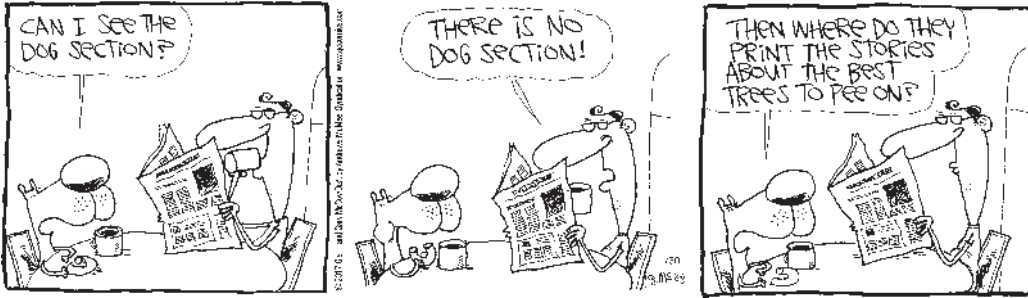


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Thick chunk

5 — de plume

8 Mid-month date

12 Circle dance

13 Actress Gardner

14 Staffer

15 Computer brand

16 Home-owner's liability

18 Small beard

20 Poem parts

21 Utah ski resort

23 Bankbook abbr.

24 Card game with a pegboard

28 Billions of years

31 Lobbyists' org.

32 Tequila source

34 Fan's cry

35 Coral formation

37 Overflow

39 Large snake

41 Differently

42 Big waves

45 Talk on and on

49 Birthright

51 Commotion

52 Jason's ship

53 Petrol

54 Eventful periods

55 GI dining hall

56 Chances for short

57 Sleep phenomena

17 Media mogul Turner

19 Exile isle

22 Open-mouthed

24 EMT's skill

25 "Norma —"

26 Big chunks of the North Atlantic?

27 State of depravity

29 Kvetch

30 That girl

33 "Born Free" lioness

36 Page numbers

38 Missive

40 Flight stat

42 Counterfeit

43 Existed

44 Palm starch

46 Ripped

47 Dutch cheese

48 Colonial seamstress

50 Hiatus

Solution time: 28 mins.

Friday's answer 1-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Wilmer Valderrama, 37; Christian Bale, 43; Phil Collins, 66; Charles S. Dutton, 66.

Happy Birthday: Step outside your comfort zone and take on new challenges. Don't settle for accepting something that doesn't stimulate you mentally, emotionally and physically. Take a look back at the way your life has unfolded and the limitations you have placed on yourself in the past. Recognize what you would do differently and begin again. It's time to start enjoying instead of enduring. Your numbers are 6, 13, 20, 24, 35, 37, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make changes for the right reasons. Getting upset or angry without taking a moment to consider all angles of a situation will result in regret. Make a calculated move instead of acting on impulse. Learn from past experiences.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Dreams can be turned into a reality if you are willing to do the work. Gather with people who have similar interests and you'll find a way to get things done efficiently. Show some team spirit and you'll end up in a leadership position.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust others to tell you what's going on. Professional gains can be made if you stay on top of the current trends and are willing to work alone to outmatch anyone who may try to compete with you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't make excuses. If you want to get ahead or make a difference, go ahead and do it. Don't get caught up in someone else's dilemmas.

Tell it like it is and do your part to make the world a better place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Head in a direction that will promote change, excitement and using your skills, talents and knowledge to reach your goal. Don't miss out on an exciting opportunity because someone close to you raises the fear of failure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Living in the past will be a waste of time. Open your mind and try something new. Friendships will develop and a partnership will give you the motivation you need to move forward with your plans. Physical improvement is encouraged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do things your way, even if you don't please everyone. It's important to live up to your own expectations, not what others have planned for you. You will learn through the experiences you encounter while trying to push forward with your plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Clear a space at home for entertainment or working on a creative hobby. Attending a social function will bring you in touch with someone who has something interesting to share. Update your image. A trendy look will boost your morale.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take better care of yourself. Poor judgment or following what someone else does will not help you reach your goals. Caution will be required to prevent injury or illness. Don't overdo it.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Revisit ideas you left sitting on the shelf. Personal changes that bring back your youthful appreciation and desire to succeed will help you kick-start new beginnings. Romance is on the rise and personal gains can be made.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your ideas and thoughts down on paper. Negotiate the way you want to see things unfold. Make alterations that will result in greater stability and do whatever it takes to follow through with your plans. Be responsible for your actions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Control your emotions when dealing with professional matters or situations that can affect your reputation. Be thoughtful and use your intuition to help you make wise choices. Personal improvements are favored. Choose love and peace over discord.

Birthday Baby: You are opportunistic, enthusiastic and daring. You are proud and distinctive.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	3		5				8		
			4			9			7
5		9	8	4			3	2	
	8						2		6
		3		9			4		
4		6						5	
	2	7		5	6	1			4
6			2			9			
		8		4			3		

Difficulty Level ★ 1/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	8	4	2	3	9	1	5
9	4	2	1	8	5	3	7	6
3	5	1	9	6	7	2	4	8
7	8	5	6	3	4	1	9	2
1	3	6	5	9	2	7	8	4
2	9	4	7	1	8	6	5	3
4	2	9	8	7	6	5	3	1
5	6	7	3	4	1	8	2	9
8	1	3	2	5	9	4	6	7

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Serena sets major record with win over Venus

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Serena Williams held up a Grand Slam winner's trophy for the 23rd time, celebrating her unrivalled place in history, and received a congratulatory letter and a pair of custom-made shoes from Michael Jordan, the name most synonymous with No. 23.

Venus Williams got to watch from close range again, and shed tears more of joy than regret after being beaten in a major final for the seventh time by her record-breaking younger sister.

Serena won the all-Williams final, the ninth in Grand Slam history and the second in Australia, 6-4, 6-4 on Saturday night.

With her record seventh Australian Open title, Serena moved ahead of Steffi Graf for the most major titles in the Open era.

The Williams sisters are close. They started out playing together in Compton, California, hardly a hotbed for tennis, with their father Richard and mother Oracene as coach and mentor. And they still practice and travel together around the world.

They met for the first time at a major at Melbourne Park in 1998 — Venus won that one. In 2003, when the younger of the Williams siblings completed her "Serena Slam" of four consecutive titles, Venus was on the other side of the net. She didn't reach another Australian final



for 14 years.

When Serena sat on the court, holding both arms up to celebrate on Saturday, Venus walked over to her sister's side of the net for a hug.

"This was a tough one," Serena said. "I really would like to take this moment to congratulate Venus, she's an amazing person—she's my inspiration."

"There's no way I would be at 23 without her—there's no way I would be at one with-

out her. Thank you Venus for inspiring me to be the best player I can be and inspiring me to work hard."

Asked if it felt awkward to be on the receiving end of so many losses to her sister, the 36-year-old Venus didn't flinch.

"No, because I guess I've been here before," she said. "I really enjoy seeing the name Williams on the trophy. This is a beautiful thing."

Venus won the last of her seven majors in 2008 at Wimbledon. She didn't make the second week of a major for a few years as she came to terms with an energy-sapping illness after being diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome in 2011. And she only made it back to the semifinals last year at Wimbledon.

Another shot at a first Australian Open title was a sign

of progress, she said.

"That's exactly where I want to be standing during these Grand Slams, is on finals day, having an opportunity," she said. "That's the highlight of all this, is to be in that moment."

Serena Williams, meanwhile, enjoyed the fact she made history in Melbourne. Only Margaret Court, with 24, is in front of her in terms of overall Grand Slam singles titles, although the Australian

United States' Serena Williams, right, and her sister Venus, left, embrace after Serena won the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017.

great won 13 of her Grand Slams before the Open era began in 1968.

"My first Grand Slam started here, and getting to 23 here, but playing Venus, it's stuff that legends are made of," Serena said. "I couldn't have written a better story."

The match didn't live up to its classic billing, with nerves and tension causing uncharacteristic mistakes and unforced errors, with four consecutive service breaks before Venus finally held for a 3-2 lead in the first set. That included a game when Serena had game point but served back-to-back double-faults and three in all to give up the break.

There were six service breaks in total. Both players were relatively subdued, except when Serena smashed her racket in the third game.

After the fourth game, however, Serena Williams didn't face another break point in the 1-hour, 22-minute match.

"Serena Williams, that's my little sister," Venus said. "I have been right there with you. Some of them I have lost right there against you. It's been an awesome thing, your win has always been my win."

In terms of total years, it was the oldest Grand Slam women's final in the Open era—the Williams sisters combining for 71 years, 11 months.

Roger Federer will be aiming to increase his all-time men's record to 18 when he takes on 14-time major winner Rafael Nadal on Sunday, completing the singles finals lineup of all 30-somethings.

Bob and Mike Bryan missed out on a doubles record, losing the final 7-5, 7-5 to Henri Kontinen of Finland and John Peers of Australia.

The third-seeded twins were trying to win their 17th Grand Slam title, which would have tied them with John Newcombe.

Speaking of records, Serena got a little bit superstitious Down Under, and hadn't wanted to talk about the No. 23 until she got it.

Now there's a limited-edition racket—23 of them to be released—and some custom-made shoes sent by former NBA great Jordan. It had Jordan's usual jersey number No. 23 stamped on the heel, helping to provide some synchronicity for the numbers involved.

Patriots-Falcons, the latest case of trophy inequity

The New England Patriots are in the Super Bowl for the ninth time in the last 31 years, chasing their fifth championship next weekend in Houston.

No coach or player in the current NFL could have a more palpable been-here-before feeling than Bill Belichick and Tom Brady. All four of their Super Bowl victories have come since the 2001 season with that venerable coach-quarterback pair, with this their seventh appearance together.

Then there are the Atlanta Falcons, still seeking their first Vince Lombardi Trophy after 51 years.

Though this pairing of teams with such disparate title-game histories is striking, it's not exactly uncommon. Here's a look back at some of the other memorable championship matchups involving trophy-case inequity in major sports:

YANKEES PROWESS: Less than two months after the terrorist attacks knocked down the World Trade Center tow-

ers, the New York Yankees had the country behind them for once during the 2001 World Series as emotional renditions of "God Bless America" stirred fans and players alike. Having won four of the previous five World Series, bringing their all-time total to 26 of what's

now 27 titles, the Yankees faced a Diamondbacks team in its mere fourth season of existence, let alone lacking a championship. Arizona's purple and teal uniforms clashed with the navy pinstripes donned by the Yankees for decades. The games in Phoenix were played under a retractable roof in an airplane-hangar-like ballpark with a swimming pool behind center field instead of the hallowed monuments looming there at Yankee Stadium.

The Diamondbacks proved they belonged between the lines, though, with Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling comprising a dominant duo

of starting pitchers that kept Yankees stars Derek Jeter, Tino Martinez and Bernie Williams quiet at the plate. In a Game 7 for the ages, Luis Gonzalez drove in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning with a single off often-unhittable closer Mariano Rivera.

SO CLOSE: Duke, every bit the villain the Yankees have usually been, had no such national support in the 2010 NCAA basketball championship game. Not only were coach Mike Krzyzewski and the Blue Devils approaching their fourth of five titles, but they were playing lovable underdog Butler.

The Final Four that year was in Indianapolis, too, just a few miles away from where the Bulldogs play. Though Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse has a rich history, the Bulldogs don't have the cachet Duke carries. One of the all-time upsets nearly happened when Gordon Hayward's

heave from half court hit the backboard and the front rim before bouncing out at the buzzer to give the Blue Devils a 61-59 victory.

STEELY RESOLVE: No team has won more Super Bowls than the Pittsburgh Steelers with six titles in the 50-year history of the event. Few franchises have been around for so long with so little accolade as the Arizona Cardinals, who date back to St. Louis and Chicago.

The Cardinals nearly pulled off a championship stunner following a 2008 season during which their 9-7 record was good enough to win a weak division. The Steelers led 20-7 midway through the fourth quarter in Tampa, Florida, before a pair of touchdown passes from Kurt Warner to Larry Fitzgerald sandwiched around a safety put the Cardinals in front. But Ben Roethlisberger deftly drove the Steelers for the go-ahead score on a throw to Antonio Holmes with 35 seconds left. The 16-point ral-

ly by the Cardinals would've been the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history.

FOREVER YOUNG: Sometimes the result on the field mirrors the imbalance in historical success. The San Francisco 49ers became the first team to win a fifth Super Bowl, when they blew out the San Diego Chargers 49-26 to close the 1994-95 season in superior fashion.

Steve Young threw six touchdown passes, still a Super Bowl record. He found Jerry Rice for a 44-yard score just three plays into the game against a Chargers team making its only Super Bowl appearance.

WORTH MENTIONING: Pittsburgh Penguins beat San Jose Sharks in 2016 Stanley Cup finals. North Carolina beats Illinois in 2005 NCAA basketball championship game. Los Angeles Lakers beat Indiana Pacers in 2000 NBA finals. St. Louis Cardinals beat Milwaukee Brewers in 1982 World Series. (AP)



Heat extend win streak to 7, top Pistons, 116-103



MIAMI (AP)—There was only one quarter in which Miami figured out how to slow down Detroit.

That was enough for the Heat.

Goran Dragic scored 23 points, Wayne Ellington added 19 and the Heat pushed the NBA's longest current winning streak to seven games by topping the Pistons 116-103 on Saturday night.

The Heat outscored Detroit 26-12 in the fourth quarter, holding the Pistons to 30 percent shooting.

"Our toughest, most physical, most committed minutes were there at the end," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's what's good to see."

James Johnson scored 18 and Dion Waiters added 17 for the Heat, who tied a season high with 14 3-pointers. Ellington made three in a span of less than two minutes of the fourth quarter as Miami pulled away.

Miami was 11-30 at the midway point of its season—and hasn't lost since. Only Golden State, San Antonio and Houston have put together longer winning streaks this season than the Heat run of late.

"We are clicking on all cylinders," Waiters said. "We're playing together, having fun, and guys are making plays. We're just playing the right way."

We're healthy and it's fun."

Reggie Jackson scored 24 for Detroit, which got 17 points and 20 rebounds from Andre Drummond. Tobias Harris added 16 points and Marcus Morris scored 14.

"Down the stretch we were terrible. Terrible," Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We didn't make plays. We've got to find better stuff down the stretch. ... I don't know if defenses have us figured out or what, but we're just not making plays."

Ellington's first in that late trio of 3s came with 4:38 left, giving the Heat a nine-point lead. He struck again about a minute later, and the last of those with 2:55 remaining put Miami up 114-101.

Miami won despite getting outscored 62-40 in the paint. The Heat more than made up for that by outscoring Detroit 42-12 from 3-point range, and somehow looked fresher down the stretch—even though Miami was on a back-to-back and Detroit had not played since Monday.

"We had time off to prepare and figure ourselves out and hone in on what's going to separate us from other teams in the fight from teams that are going to fade," Jackson said. "Defensively we've just got to be better."

Warriors 144, Clippers 98

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 25 of his 43 points in the third quarter following his first buzzer-beater of the season at the end of the first half to lead the Golden State Warriors to their ninth win in 10 games, 144-98 over the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday night.

Curry's 51-foot shot was the spark on a night that began with his playing status in doubt because of a sore left quadriceps muscle. After testing his leg in warmups, Curry was cleared to play and showed no signs of being slowed by the injury, hitting nine 3-pointers.

Kevin Durant added 23 points, and Klay Thompson had 16 to give Golden State its eighth straight win over its Southern California rival. Blake Griffin scored 20 points for the struggling Clippers. They have lost four of five since star point guard Chris Paul went down with a torn ligament in left thumb.

Celtics 112, Bucks 108, OT
In Milwaukee, Isaiah Thomas had 37 points, and Jae Crowder scored four of his 20 points on free throws in the final 28 seconds of overtime to help Boston beat Milwaukee.

Boston won its third straight after squandering a 16-point second half lead and a 42-point first quarter, its best of the season.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 21 points, and Greg Monroe had 14 points and 13 rebounds. The Bucks have lost three in a row and eight of nine.

Timberwolves 129, Nets 109

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 37 points and 13 rebounds to lead Minnesota past Brooklyn.

Andrew Wiggins added 23

points and four assists, and Zach LaVine scored 20 points for the Timberwolves. They have won seven of their last 10 games.

Brook Lopez had 25 points and seven rebounds and hit 3 of 6 3-pointers for the Nets. They have lost five straight and 21 of their last 23 games.

Kings 109, Hornets 106

In Charlotte, N.C., DeMarcus Cousins had 35 points and 18 rebounds, and Sacramento handed Charlotte Hornets its fourth straight loss.

Cousins scored the go-ahead basket with 14.3 seconds left on a driving layup. The Hornets had a chance to take the lead in the closing seconds, but Frank Kaminsky shot an airball on a 3-pointer. Cousins grabbed the rebound and was fouled, making one free throw.

Darren Collison added 17 points for the Kings. Kemba Walker had 20 points of his 26 points in the third quarter for Charlotte.

Nuggets 123, Suns 112

In Phoenix, Danilo Gallinari scored 32 points and Denver took advantage of a third-quarter parade to the free throw line to beat Phoenix for the second time in three nights.

Kenneth Faried had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets, winners of three straight and seven of their last nine. The Nuggets were 18 of 19 at the foul line in the third quarter, and finished 37 of 42.

Eric Bledsoe scored a career-high 41 for the Suns. Devin Booker added 23.

Grizzlies 102, Jazz 95

In Salt Lake City, Zach Randolph scored a season-high 28 points in Memphis' victory over Utah.

Mike Conley added 23 points, and Marc Gasol had 18. Rodney Hood led the Jazz with 20 points.



Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic drives to the basket against Detroit Pistons center Aron Baynes during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, in Miami. AP

NBA BRIEFS

Wade, Butler benched for comments critical of team

CHICAGO (AP)—Dwyane Wade and Jimmy Butler were dropped from the Chicago Bulls' starting lineup Friday night against the Miami Heat as punishment for postgame comments questioning the their teammates' desire following a loss. "Just based on what happened the other night, we felt it was appropriate to make the change," coach Fred Hoiberg said in announcing the decision about 90 minutes before tipoff. Paul Zipser and Doug McDermott were inserted into the starting lineup. "It doesn't matter if I start," Butler said. "I still have to do what I do anyways, help the team win. Nothing surprises me anymore." Before the morning shootaround, the Bulls held a team meeting to clear the air after Rajon Rondo fired back at Wade and Butler in an Instagram post Thursday. There was an uneasy detente in place for the three leaders of the scuffling Bulls, who are now answering questions about their ability to get along, not just why they aren't

winning more.

Westbrook leads All-Star reserve picks, Wade out

The NBA's leading scorer and two-time reigning All-Star MVP is among the 14 reserve selections announced by the NBA on Thursday for the in Feb. 19 game in New Orleans. Other West reserves are Golden State's Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins, Memphis' Marc Gasol and first-timers Gordon Hayward of Utah and DeAndre Jordan of the Los Angeles Clippers. The East reserves are Indiana's Paul George, Cleveland's Kevin Love, Toronto's Kyle Lowry, Atlanta's Paul Millsap, Boston's Isaiah Thomas, Washington's John Wall and first-timer Kemba Walker of Charlotte. With Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant starting, Golden State ties a record with four selections. Notables not selected include Chicago's Dwyane Wade and New York's Carmelo Anthony. Wade's streak of 12 consecutive All-Star trips will end, unless he's named as a replacement. (AP)

Kerr calls some players' All-Star votes a 'mockery'

MIAMI (AP)—Golden State coach Steve Kerr wishes players had taken their voting for the NBA All-Star Game more seriously, calling it a "mockery" after nearly 300 players in the league wound up on at least one ballot.

Players had a say in deciding starters for next month's game in New Orleans, with their selections accounting for 25 percent of someone's total score in the balloting. Fan and media votes were also part of the process of selecting starters, and NBA coaches vote this week for the reserves to be revealed on Thursday.

"I am very disappointed in

the players," Kerr, who will coach the Western Conference in the game, said before the Warriors lost 105-102 at Miami on Monday night. "They've asked for a vote and a lot of them just made a mockery of it. I don't know what the point is."

Nearly 100 players got only one vote from either themselves or an NBA peer in the All-Star balloting, including Mo Williams—who hasn't played a single second this season. The NBA said a total of 324 players participated in the voting process.

Kerr was asked why he would use the word "mockery."

"I saw the list," Kerr said. "I saw all the guys who got votes. ... There were 50 guys on there who had no business getting votes. Although a lot of people wrote in their buddies in the presidential vote as well. So maybe that's just their own way of making a statement. I think if you're going to give the players a vote, I think they should take it seriously."

In past years, starters have been picked entirely by fan vote. This year, those whose All-Star hopes now hinge on the coaches' vote include Dwyane Wade, Zaza Pachulia, Joel Embiid, two-time

All-Star MVP Russell Westbrook and perennial All-Star pick Carmelo Anthony. Wade, Pachulia and Embiid would have started under the old formula.

Kerr said the change to the way starters are picked this year didn't affect the way he made his votes for reserves. He sent his vote in Sunday.

"Didn't alter anything," said Kerr, whose spot as the West coach was clinched when Houston lost to Milwaukee on Monday.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said he called a staff meeting to get input on the ballot he'll send to the league.

2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paddlers from three clubs head to the finish line during the 500m preliminary race in the 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic held over the weekend in the waters off Kilili Beach.



Napu Outrigger Canoe Club steer their boat back to the shore. ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, addresses the participants during the opening ceremony, while Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Diego Kaipat looks on and waits for the presentation of a resolution to the late Timothy Lee Salas Wesley Jr.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-CSR team carry a canoe out of the shore after last Sunday's races.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School paddlers make their way back to the shore after finishing the 500m race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Taotao Galaide paddlers switch sides on their way to the shore.



Guam paddlers cool down after the 500m race. ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Paddlin Club's Joshua Andrew gets out of the boat after completing the open mix 1,500m preliminary race.



**Serena sets
major record
with win
over Venus**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Heat extend
win streak to
7, top Pistons,
116-103**

PAGE 25



28 MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Napu, MOC paddlers excel



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club and Mt. Carmel School paddlers steer their way to the finish line of the 500m preliminary race in the 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic held in the waters off Kilili Beach over the weekend.

Ol'Aces live for another day

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The champion in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League has to be decided by another game following the Ol'Aces' 89-68 rout of Saipan Apparel last Thurs-

day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The Ol'Aces forced a rubber after finishing off Saipan Apparel in the fourth quarter of Game 1 of their title duel. Game 2 was originally scheduled last Friday, but was moved to to-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen pulls up for a running jumper, while Saipan Apparel's Ben Lisua looks on during the fourth quarter of the Game 1 of their title game in the MIBF caging last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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Napu Outrigger Canoe Club and Marianas Outrigger Club paddlers stood out in the 2nd Annual Timmy Would Go Memorial Paddle Classic held in the waters off Kilili Beach over the weekend.

Napu posted six first place finishes, while MOC swept the men's open races of the two-day event.

Napu 1 topped both the junior boys and girls 1,500m and 500m races. In the junior boys 1,500m, Napu 1 timed in

at 6:31 to beat Guatdan Tasi (6:35), Saipan Paddling Club (7:05), and Napu 2 (7:09). Napu 2 also had the fastest time in the preliminary with its 6:47, followed by SPC (6:56), Guatdan Tasi (6:57), and Napu 2 (7:33).

In the junior girls 1,500m, Napu 1's 7:33 bested the 8:20 and 8:46 of SPC and Napu 2, respectively. The preliminary race also had the same ranking with Napu 1 coming in at first after submitting 7:43 and SPC

(7:58) and Naou 2 (8:29) finishing second and third.

In the men's open 1,500 MOC Red and Black took the Top 2 finish after logging 6:25 and 6:44 in the finals, respectively. Guatdan Tasi rounded out the Top 3 with its 6:56, while SPC missed the podium after completing the three-lap race in 7:10. MOC Red also ruled the preliminary race with its 6:35 and was followed by

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Lee gains 30 more ITF Juniors ranking points

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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee earned 30 more ITF Juniors ranking points after completing her participation in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington, New Zealand last weekend.

Lee collected 20 points for her semis appearance in the singles event of the Grade 4 tournaments and added 10 for making it to the quarterfinals of the doubles. Earlier this month, she was also awarded 30 points for advancing to the semis (doubles) and Round of 8 (singles) of the Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF held in Christchurch.

The 15-year-old Lee settled for the third most points awarded in the singles play as she dropped her semifinals game last Friday. No. 3 seed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Carol Lee, right, poses with Fiji's Mulan Kamoe before their game in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington, New Zealand last week.



Risa Fukutoku defeated the CNMI bet in the battle for the finals berth at the lower half of the draw, 6-4, 6-2, to set up an all-Japanese finale against Mana Kawamura. The top-ranked Kawamura went on to clinch the singles championship after sweeping Fukutoku, 6-3, 6-4, in last Saturday's title match and the former also won 40 ranking points against the latter's 30.

The two Japanese later claimed additional 30 points each for ruling the doubles event. Kawamura and Fukutoku beat Hong Kong's Justine Sophie Leong and Jenny Wong in the finals, 6-3, 6-1.

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